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SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES CONCLUDE MEETING

PA181547Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0431 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Feb (EFE)--The eighth meeting of the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries [GEPLACEA] ended here with a statement condemning the protectionist sugar import policy of the United States. The meeting started last Monday with attendance of 20 of the 22 GEPLACEA nations. The organization's censure was based on new U.S. sugar import tariffs, which raise the product's price on the U.S. market to 15.5 cents a pound.

GEPLACEA said in a statement at the end of the meeting that by making sugar uncompetitive on the U.S. market "the economies of our countries are significantly hurt."

GEPLACEA's executive secretary, Cuban Jorge Briosos Dominguez, said the meeting was "absolutely positive." At the same time he announced a future export restriction by the group and the setting up of a reserve fund.

Briosos Rodriguez added that he expects the price of sugar to reach 11 cents, the minimum established by the international sugar agreement, by the second half of this year.

At the 5-day meeting the participants worked in four commissions: marketing and statistics, administrative affairs, technological questions and future strategy.

In regard to the latter commission, it was agreed that GEPLACEA countries will support the participation of its secretariat in the greatest possible number of committees and work groups of the "International Sugar Organization (ISO)." It was also agreed to encourage closer ties between ISO and the European Economic Community, and studies were made on mechanisms to stabilize prices.

An estimate was made of sugar supply and consumption for 1978. The figures of 113 and 85 million tons, respectively, were established. Of the 1978 supply, it was determined that 22 million tons are the carryover from 1977 while 91.08 million tons will be this year's production. A breakdown of the latter figure shows estimated production in million tons to be as follows: EC, 12.3; Western Europe, 16.75; Eastern Europe, 13.6; North and Central America, 19.6; South America, 14.2; Africa, 6.0; Asia, 17.1; and Oceania, 3.6. Within Latin America, according to the study, Brazil will be the biggest producer with 8.9 million tons followed by Cuba with 7.1 and Mexico with 2.8 million tons. The United States will produce 5.6 million tons.

GEPLACEA reports that its revenue for 1977 was $740,516 million and its expenses $647,441 million. By country, the biggest contributor is Cuba with $222,155 followed by Brazil with $158,810, the Dominican Republic with $73,013 and Mexico, Argentina and Peru with about $33,000 each. [all figures as received]

Along technical lines it was agreed to promote technological cooperation between the organization's countries, to increase information exchange and to make bilateral agreements.

The next GEPLACEA meeting will be held in Guatemala in October.

Freeze on Sugar Sales

PA171933Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] GEPLACEA has decided to freeze the sale of 175,000 tons of sugar a month until the raw material reaches the minimum price of 11 cents that was agreed upon in the international sugar convention. As reported, the amount of sugar embargoed so as to expedite a recovery in the price level totals 17.5 percent of the overall output, estimated at approximately 1 million tons, of the 21 GEPLACEA members. The agreement was adopted during the eighth GEPLACEA plenary meeting which is taking place in Mexico City.

Cuban Raps U.S. Tariff

FL201708Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Today Cuban Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas stated that the taxes imposed by the United States on sugar imports are counter to the objectives of the new international sugar agreement. Cabrizas said that all Latin American sugar-producing countries, including Cuba, will be hurt by the imposition of North American fixed tariffs and special taxes. Of course, there are no direct effects on our sugar trade, for it is known that we are prevented from exporting our sugar to the North American market, he said. But it is true that Cuba is hurt indirectly just like all the Latin American countries, stated the Cuban deputy foreign trade minister.

The 21 nations members of GEPLACEA condemned the policy of prices and taxes imposed by President Jimmy Carter and stated that these measures negatively affects the sugar industry and slows down the progress of the international sugar agreement.

PERUVIAN MINISTER BECOMES HEAD OF CARTAGENA BOARD

PY211733Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The Peruvian minister of industry, commerce, tourism and integration, Gen Gaston Ibanez, yesterday assumed the presidency of the Cartagena accord board commission. During the ceremony, he said that the three basic objectives of the Andean Pact in 1978 are implementation of the automotive program, creation of the Andean court of justice and updating of the light metal industry.

Ibanez emphasized the need to strengthen links with the countries and organizations of the region, particularly with the Andean Development Corporation and LAFTA. He also said that the Andean group must establish a policy of participation within [words indistinct] aimed at contributing to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Panama agreement.

LIMA NEGOTIATIONS ON MALVINAS SOVEREIGNTY END

PY172114Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Lima--The negotiations on sovereignty over the Malvinas and South Sandwich islands, being carried out since Wednesday by official delegations from Argentina and the United Kingdom, ended today in Lima. The simultaneous negotiations by a technical-political group and an economic group, were held in complete secrecy. This was the third round of Argentine-UK negotiations. Previous meetings were held in Rome and New York.

PARAGUAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PY220148Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0115 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb--Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues arrived here tonight. He arrived in Ezeiza International Airport at 2205 and was met by Argentine Foreign Ministry officials and by Paraguayan Ambassador Antonio Masulli Fuster.

HIDING PLACE OF KIDNAPERS DISCOVERED

PY211412Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text of communique from Zone 1 Command issued 20 February in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Zone 1 Command reports that, as a result of antisubversive operations which are being carried out to provide the people with security and protection, an unfinished building which was to be used as an important place for people kidnaped by subversive criminals--members of the Argentine Communist Marxist-Leninist Party--was discovered. This hiding place is located on 27th Street between 79th and 80th streets in La Plata City. Plans, materials and tools were found in the unfinished building. This gang of subversive criminals is a branch of other Marxist organizations, and their subversive action plans mention the kidnaping of General Pita.

STATE OILFIELDS COMPANY CALLS FOR BIDS

PY211425Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Five firms yesterday submitted bids at the opening of the State Oilfields Company [YPF] international call for bids for drilling, development and exploitation of areas 1 and 2 of the southern basin. The areas include 12,900 square kilometers of maritime zone and 7,567 square kilometrers of territorial area in the Tierra del Fuego Isla Grande.

BRIEFS

DETAINEES RELEASED--Buenos Aires, 17 Feb--The Interior Ministry reported that between 10 and 17 February 1978, 28 persons held at the disposal of the executive branch were released, 2 persons were arrested, and 1 person was authorized to leave the country. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1926 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY]

CLAT DELEGATES ARRIVE; DENOUNCED BY LECHIN AS CIA AGENTS

PY181645Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1440 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Feb--Delegates from the Latin American Workers Central [CLAT], who arrived in Bolivia yesterday, stressed the need that labor union rights be respected in the region, during a press conference here today.

Alberto Cao, Carlos Custer, Salvador Sanchez Alfredo Carazo held a press conference on respect for human rights in general and labor rights in particular. The CLAT delegates concluded by stating that there is a particular interest in the region for the reorganization of the Bolivian labor union which began 3 weeks ago, after the unions had been legalized.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1453 on 18 February 1978 reports from La Paz that Juan Lechin, top leader of Bolivia's mineworkers, stated today that the Bolivian workers should repudiate the visiting CLAT delegates, because they are CIA agents. He made the same accusation against delegates from the Latin American Press Workers Federation [FELATRAP] who are also visiting Bolivia. "We must make an effort to evict them from the country," he said.]

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ISSUES DOCUMENT

PY211653Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0045 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 20 Feb--The Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party [PRTB], of which the National Liberation Army [ELN] is the armed branch, today called for the formation of a democratic revolutionary front in the electoral process now going on in the country. The party, founded illegally 2 years ago, issued its first statement on the constitutionalization process which will lead to general elections on 9 July in a document published today. The PRTB was created as the political arm of the ELN which was founded in Bolivia in 1967 by the Argentine-Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, and the party maintains in the document that the working class and the people do not reject the possibilities offered by the elections. It cautions, however, that the validity of the elections promised for this year by the armed forces government will depend upon the level of democracy the masses have reached through their reorganization.

The PRTB, a radical revolutionary leftist party, suggests to the labor, popular and peasant movements in its document which has been disseminated to international news agencies, that a democratic revolutionary front be formed which discriminates against fascists and those committed to them. It adds: The front will struggle for full legality and for recognition of the labor organizations outlawed by the military government, including the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], the highest labor organization in the country which was outlawed in August 1971. It also proposes the democratization of the armed forces, the repeal of the state security law and the immediate withdrawal of troops stationed in the Bolivian mining districts. The front will struggle for a general salary increase and a freeze of all prices as a democratic platform in the institutionalization process which should recognize the validity of all the conquests made by the people and the labor unions.

JORNAL SEES CHANGES IN BRAZILIAN-U.S. RELATIONS

PY220024Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Feb 78 Special Section p 1 PY

[By Walder de Gois: "Carter Takes a Second Look at Brazil"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. State Department has already adopted a new attitude toward Brazil.

That new attitude has nothing to do with the objectives of Carter's policy, which remain unchanged. For instance, there is no sign that the Carter administration is retreating from its stand against Brazil's acquiring technology to manufacture nuclear weapons. This is to say that the installation of the uranium reprocessing plant under the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement continues to be opposed by the U.S. Government.

That new attitude has to do with the "means" to achieve the objectives. Instead of applying strong pressures, the State Department will give priority to a strategy of support for tendencies leaning toward the opening of the political system in Brazil. Washington may have realized that the use of strong pressures did nothing but harden even more the resistance of the Brazilian regime, thus helping to strengthen it internally. Brazil's reply to those pressures emphasized the nationalist traits of the regime, which thus gained strength by polarizing the scattered but genuine anti-American sentiments existing in the country.

The previous approach was not intended to destablize the Brazilian regime. At some point, more radical diplomats may have considered that such an approach was appropriate and viable, but their strategy was based on the idea that mounting pressures would force the Brazilian Government to make concessions. The new approach, on the contrary, hinges on the realization that concessions will not be made, and that the other alternative is to encourage a change of mind by the Brazilian regime in a positive direction, waiting for the U.S. positions to gain influence in a situation in which decisions will be more dependent on the free manifestation of political forces.

This new U.S. approach is based on expectations created by Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo and confidence in opinion groups which are forcing General Figueiredo to assume a commitment to run a politically open government. The State Department detected the signs of a positive evolution in Brazil's political system, and it may have preferred to encourage that evolution. The reports from the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, in addition to revealing Brazil's new political climate, may have pointed out the differences in personality between President Geisel and General Figueiredo. Certainly General Figueiredo is not so steeped in the military nationalism of Brazilian Army officers and is more convinced of the need for stable cooperative relations between Brazil and the United States. Although niceties of protocol cannot be taken too seriously, it can be noticed that General Figueiredo, unlike the majority of generals holding important government positions, frequently accepts invitations to attend parties at the U.S. ambassador's residence. General Figueiredo and Frota [the ousted army minister] were the only generals who attended the dinner given to Mrs Rosalynn Carter by Ambassador Crimmins in September 1977.

The political stirrings of December and January in Brazil fortified the State Department's conviction that confidence can be placed in the tendencies favoring a political opening and that the best thing to do is to support them.

Of course, candidate General Figueiredo has long and critical ceremonial steps to take, since he is not standing on a definite mandate, either from civilians or military officers, but U.S. diplomacy could not fail to consider the prospects he offers, for two reasons.

The first one is that General Figueiredo is not committed to the nationalism of hardline Brazilian officers and will therefore try to assuage the anti-American feelings which currently influence the government, encouraging radical attitudes. General Figueiredo, who is avowedly pro-West, would recognize the leading role the United States plays in the Western world. Consequently, he would try to reduce the importance of the Brazilian policy in Africa, Asia and East Europe. He may even reduce the proportions of what seems to be a Brazilian strategy of systematically substituting West European influence for U.S. influence.

The second reason is that the presidential succession in Brazil, proceeding in a politically open climate, has triggered into action democratic groups of Brazilian society, whose support the next government will need to gain stability. The reduction of U.S. pressures on Brazil would thus seem to give stimulus to the action of those groups, because the previous strong attitude of the United States would tend to strengthen the authoritariansim of the present regime, consequently reducing the space for the development of positive tendencies within the existing political regime.

In its general lines, what is happening in U.S.-Brazilian relations is the same thing that had happened with Portugal. At the beginning the State Department adopted a strong policy, which was later transformed into support for democratic sectors within the political system which followed the ouster of Salazarism, in order to influence Portugal's situation. Throughout 1974 the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, following directives from the State Department, addressed itself to the task of bringing about Portugal's economic isolation. That way it expected to destabilize the Vasco Goncalves regime and to block the possibility of a communist takeover. The strategy backfired inasmuch as it broadened the PCP's [Portuguese Communist Party] popular support. So the strategy was modified in 19[illegible] at the insistence of Ambassador Carlucci, who managed to convince the State Department that the best way to save Portugal from the communist influence would be to strengthen the democratic parties through support effectively negotiated with the Portuguese Government.

The change of mind in Brazil's case seems to have come from the White House, not from the State Department. Cyrus Vance, a man who seems to have more connections with the "establishment" than does Carter, implemented the strong policy ordered by the White House, but slowly he succeeded in getting the White House to change its beliefs as to the way of conducting international relations. There is strong evidence that the change of strategy toward Brazil is a personal achievement of Vance who, with his sense of realism, perceived that the strong policy was producing a widening gap between the United States and a useful ally, as well as threatening important interests between the economies of the two countries.

The replacement of the U.S. ambassador in Brasilia can be construed as a State Department gesture to formally mark its new political strategy, without meaning however to disregard the work carried out by Ambassador Crimmins.

Brazil wants to acquire full technological cycles in whatever industrial sectors the country is interested, and it also wants to acquire any technology industry needs, even from nonindustrial sectors. Such is the case of the nuclear agreement with the FRG, for instance.

The foreign policymakers know that the country's full economic development depends on technological transfer in terms which the United States has not offered, but West Europe has. The nuclear agreement with the FRG is an example and has been instrumental in making Brazil resort to Europe. A large number of elements which used to come from the United States have been replaced by those which can be obtained from Europe. The intention is to intensify this replacement, resorting to it even as a pressure device to force the United States to accept without much reluctance the new international division of labor [divisao internacional do trabalho]. The negotiation of better terms for the operation of multinational enterprises in the country, which is one of the most important demands made by the armed forces to the government, is strongly guided by that way of thinking.

The Brazilian strategy, as far as the exploitation of all the possibilities presented by the new international division of labor is concerned, is based on the supposition that Brazil will not be able to take full advantage of the changing pattern of international capitalism unless the country acquires the elements rapidly to boost its capacity to participate more directly in the international decisionmaking process. Taking the long view, the question for Brazil is not just to produce more and to sell more, or even to raise the index of Brazilian-made components of industrial goods produced here with foreign investments. The question is to combine all the available elements, including the capability to produce and sell, in order to gain power in the international decisionmaking process to be able to change unjust terms in international laws.

That way of thinking tries to make its imprint in any particular negotiation. The dominant thinking is to include, in each contract signed, clauses for technological transfer which will be given more importance than that given to the price of such contracts. This thinking has been an additional reason to search for deals in Europe as a substitute for the U.S. market, since West European countries must offer unrestricted advantages of technological transfer to countries like Brazil, in order to compete with the United States. In recent years, Brazil's relations with Europe, mainly with the FRG, strongly developed along the lines of this strategy. Business with Europe has increased in a relative proportion to which business with the United States has declined. This is a trend of outright replacement. This trend should be intensified in 1978, even by accelerating the Brazilian production of conventional weapons for domestic consumption and exports. In this respect, priority will be given to the transfer of West European technology.

Brazilian policymakers believe that the revision of the international division of labor and the emergence of conflicts of interest between the Unites States and Europe have cleared, within the world economy, sufficient space through which Brazil can foster its development and thus rapidly achieve the status of a developed country. The new division of labor and the emergence of conflicts between Europe and the United States also indicate that there is an intensified worldwide dispute over finding new areas of expansion for the capitalist system. Brazil seeks to obtain as much advantage as it can from this dispute, by promoting itself as a country with large natural resources, vast territory, large population and an adequate level of infrastructural facilities to become one of the four or five major alternatives for expanding the world capitalist system.

It is also based on this rather global perspective, which has strategic significance for the U.S. capitalism, that the State Department has reviewed its policy toward Brazil, seeking to create an adequate atmosphere for reconciling the two countries' overall interests.

This, however, will mean facing and solving difficult problems, since the United States will have to regain the influence it lost in Brazil and, at the same time, it must veto Brazilian projects such as that involving the acquisition of the complete cycle of nuclear technology. It is in this respect that Sayre's mission will be more difficult than that of Crimmins, since although the problems involved are not new, there is increasing awareness of their existence both in the United States and Brazil. Sayre will be certainly encouraged to use his influence to the effect of jeopardizing, for instance, the special relations developed by Brazil and the FRG. Brazilian officials and foreign diplomats regard these relations as a typical result of the Brazilian interest in creating alternatives to overcome the losses it may have in the U.S. market. These losses will be greater to the extent that nationalism becomes more deeply rooted and the regime furthers its decision to utilize anti-American feelings as a means of obtaining support for a political system, which cannot otherwise obtain a very clear popular support.

It is also within this same perspective that U.S. circles in Brasilia are following, with close attention, the preparations for President Geisel's trip to the FRG, a trip which will take place just before President Carter's visit to Brazil. It is believed, for instance, that if Geisel and Schmidt emphatically reaffirm their nuclear agreement in Bonn, it will be difficult to negotiate Carter's agenda in Brasilia. Although Carter may intend to convert his trip as a starting point for improving U.S. relations with Brazil, he will not be able to exclude from his talks with Geisel the issue which has been, after all, the most sensitive and explosive element in their bilateral relations.

ARMY UNITED IN FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISTS

PY211805Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1407 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 21 Feb--The army is united and dedicated to continuously fight communism, and the soldiers are ready to "sacrifice their lives in defense of our democratic traditions," said Army Minister Fernando Belfort Bethlem.

The army minister issued an order of the day, which was read in all Brazilian Army offices to celebrate the anniversary of the Brazilian victory at Monte Castello, Italy, during World War II. He emphasized that the blood which was shed at that historical event was the price paid to "preserve the Free World from the nefarious action of nazism-fascism" and asserted that the army is now engaged in another war against a more bloody and treacherous type of totalitarianism.

The minister added: "The violent strategy of communism is to attack the very essence of a democratic state, through its vulnerabilities, until it is completely weakened, allowing the implementation of a new regime in which some or all individual freedoms may be banned."

He stated that one of the greatest challenges for developing countries is "the search for an accomodation between democratic freedoms and the needs for national security."

He warned that the army is "united and dedicated in its permanent struggle against antifatherland and pseudodemocratic communists who, in Brazil and abroad, plot against Brazil."

RIO POLICE OFFICIAL DENIES DEATH SQUAD EXISTS

PY171830Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 17 PY

[Excerpts] Public Security Secretary General Brum Negreiros said yesterday that he is sure that there is no death squad in the Political Police Department as charged by Adm Julio de Sa Bierrenbach, minister of the Supreme Military Tribunal [STM].

General Negreiros believes that "the charge made by the minister at this time is outdated because it refers to a case which occurred, or may have occurred, 3 years ago and in which the state police was accused of torturing Paulo Jose de Oliveira Morais." The state received from the STM a note dated 22 December 1977, requesting an investigation into that case.

The security secretary stated that he is willing and ready to look into any case presented to him, either to confirm or deny the existence of a death squad, "but I am sure that it does not exist in the Political and Social Police Department of Rio de Janeiro."

He said that last week he received a note from the military justice attorney general authorizing the opening of an investigation to look into charges of torture practices, "which we will pursue right down to the end, because we will not launch an investigation merely to waste time."

OFFICIAL NOTE ON PASSPORTS ISSUED

PY211625Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpt] Itamaraty spokesman Luiz Felipe Lampreia, in response to a reporter who asked him if the official note released by the Justice Ministry means that there "has been a change in the procedure of granting passports" to Brazilian citizens residing abroad, said: "The note establishes the procedure that Brazilian consulates and embassies abroad must first consult the Justice Ministry through Itamaraty, a procedure which the Brazilian Government has followed and will follow regarding this matter."

SAO PAULO COFFEE CROP MAY FALL TO 4 MILLION BAGS

PA220019Y Paris AFP in English 0010 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, Feb 21 (AFP)--The coffee bean crop in Sao Paulo may fall to 4,000,000 bags this year, 40 per cent less than in 1977, the agricultural federation of that state believed today. Trade sources said that the lost production was due to drought and an unidentified illness which had struck the coffee-shrubs.

Similar difficulties have affected Parana and other states. Some experts are already forecasting that the Brazilian crop will not exceed 17,000,000 bags this year, although the Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC) recently foreshadowed a harvest of 20,000,000 bags.

(In London, Camillio Calazans, president of the PBC, today denied that Brazil was offering a 10 per cent reduction for its coffee. "Brazil is not offering any kind of rebate," he declared, adding that his country had concluded no agreement with Colombia on prices.)

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON BEAGLE CHANNEL ISSUE

EL MERCURIO Comments

PY211755Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0241 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 20 Feb--Chile will always insist on arbitration to solve border disagreements, stated the morning newspaper EL MERCURIO on Tuesday in commenting on the act of agreement which was signed on 20 February by the Chilean and Argentine presidents in the Chilean city of Puerto Montt, in order to solve the existing border differences in southern waters. EL MERCURIO stated that the meeting "did not produce--as was published in Buenos Aires--a triumph of the bilateral approach which was so obstinately promoted by Argentina." It indicated that "the packet" of negotiations in the act disregarded everything related to the British arbitration on the Beagle, which recognized Chilean sovereignty over the Picton, Lennox and Neuva islands, and that it was President Pinochet who reasserted in his speech that "Chile will always insist on arbitration."

For EL MERCURIO, it is "obvious to conclude that the negotiations which have now begun must be understood as subordinate to the Chilean right to resort to international arbritration in accordance with the treaties in force with Argentina." The newspaper added that this position "does not prevent an effort to reach progress and harmony in which fields of bilateral relations expect for a demarcation of sovereign rights." The newspaper concluded by indicating that those rights, "as such, must be legally clarified and not discussed at political meetings and countermeetings as the so-called bilateral approach intends.

General Leigh Comments

PY211845Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Chilean Junta member Gustavo Leigh has stated that the presidential summit in Puerto Montt was successful. He added that Presidents Augusto Pinochet and Jorge Rafael Videla have given an example of American solidarity. General Leigh made this statement at the end of a government junta meeting at the Defense Ministry which was presided over by President Pinochet.

[Leigh--begin recording] I believe that the signing of the Puerto Montt agreement is [word indistinct] the spirit which guides the Chilean and Argentine presidents, who, as President Pinochet once said, by overcoming difficulties and bitter (?controversies), are willing to serve their peoples through friendship and [words indistinct].

I am sure that this agreement, by enabling the two commissions that were formed to submit specific proposals to the two governments, will be highly important for the two nations. [end recording]

General Leigh repeated his belief that countries must be integrated and united and must disregard problems or issues promoted by obsessed groups which are only concerned with less important issues and private interests.

[Leigh--begin recording] I believe that Argentina and Chile have taken a highly positive step in Puerto Montt to achieve this integration which Chile and Argentina must strive for. I believe that all Chileans, Argentines and all our neighbors must think that because we live in a hostile and difficult world, in a world in which industrialized nations are trying to [words indistinct] without much concern about the vast developing nations, we should be concerned about this and try to unite ourselves, by helping each other, and by integrating ourselves in defense against those greater [ccuntries] which are curbing our development.

Instead of this unity, however, we see that there are intrigues, arguments and analyses made by obsessed sectors which want to capitalize upon these disputes. [passage indistinct--end recording]

The Chilean Air Force commander added [words indistinct] by wasting efforts in arms, which he believes is highly dangerous and furthermore hinders national development. General Leigh added that in view of this all countries, especially Latin American countries, must seek unity and solidarity which should reign over other issues.

Finally, General Leigh discussed the government junta meeting held at the Defense Ministry. [passage indistinct] The 1-hour meeting was attended by General Leigh, Adm Jose Toribio Merino, acting Carabineros Chief Gen (Eduardo Botti) and Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal.

Commission Formed

PY211310Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Immediately after President Pinochet and Videla signed the agreement for negotiations, the first joint commission was formed. This commission is headed jointly by Gen (Luis Ramirez) from Chile and Lt Col (Pablo Apella) from Argentina. After establishing the commission's regulations and general procedures, the joint commission agreed to hold its first meeting in Santiago on 1 March 1978. At that time they will seek measures aimed at establishing harmonious conditions in the southern region.

BRIEFS

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MISSIONS--Jaime Tagle, manager of operations of the United Development Bank [BUF], who recently returned from a European tour, has stated that several European financial institutions will send economic missions to Chile next month. These institutions are interested in the possibility of investments in Chile. Included in the mission to visit Chile are representatives from the European management forum. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1515 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY]

COLOMBIA, HAITI SIGN MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

PA180239Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Colombian Foreign Minister Indalecio Lievano Aguirre and Haitian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Worship Edner Brutus today signed an agreement on the delimitation of maritime boundaries between the two countries. The ceremony was held in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti.

The Colombian foreign minister was accompanied by Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia, Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol Jaime Bermudez, Boundary Director Col Julio Londono, Foreign Ministry Organization Department Chief Jose Joaquin Caicedo Pardomo and protocol official Julio Riano.

The boundary agreement with Haiti is the fifth signed by President Lopez Michelsen's administration with friendly neighboring countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean. It has already signed similar agreements with Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. There are similar treaties pending only with Venezuela and Jamaica.

In the document signed today, the two countries agree to insure the renewable and nonrenewable natural resources found in marine and submarine areas for the benefit of their people. Also they noted that close, joint cooperation is needed to preserve, conserve and exploit the resources in those areas.

KIDNAPED U.S. SCIENTIST REPORTEDLY FLOWN TO U.S.

PA182151Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1616 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 18 Feb (AFP)--Informed sources reported today that a U.S.-registered Japanese plane was used surreptitiously to whish away a U.S. scientist who had been kidnaped here. This occurred after a large ransom had been paid. The incident, which had a touch of the movies about it, took place in southern Colombia between 23 January and 12 February. The airplane, bearing registration number NA-888 and equipped with sophisticated instruments and equipment, disappeared after it had been exhibited by two Colombian crewmen, Jorge Vargas and Jairo Montenegro, both retired air force officers. Its disappearance caused alarm and led to an intensive search in the area.

According to our sources, on 12 February the plane went to the La Macarena Mountains, where it picked up U.S. botanist Richard Starr, who had been kidnaped by guerrillas almost 2 years ago. The plane then left immediately for the United States. Reports released this morning indicate that the equivalent of $250,000 was paid as ransom for Starr. This is the second case with similar characteristics and results to take place in Colombia involving U.S. citizens. In October, 1975, Donald Cooper, a Sears assistant manager who had been kidnaped, was also taken out of the country by strange means. Millions [no currency given] were paid in ransom. Colombian authorities received news of Cooper's release on 3 November 1975, when he appeared in Nebraska.

KIDNAPERS ASK RANSOM FOR ITALIAN INDUSTRIALIST

PA201857Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1618 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Feb (EFE)--The kidnapers of Italian industrialist Jose Bartolini Berlini are asking 40 million pesos ($1.4 million) for his release, Radio Cadena Nacional [RCN] reported today.

Bartolini was kidnaped early Saturday morning in a downtown street in Medellin, Antioquia Department, by four men in a European-made car. Bartolini's car was found afterward near a soccer stadium by the police who took fingerprints for clues that could lead to the kidnapers. RNC reported that a few hours ago the kidnapers sent a letter to Bartolini's family in which they asked for a ransom and in which they submitted proof that they have the Italian industrialist.

The 50-year-old Bartolini owns a toy factory and has been living in Colombia for over 15 years.

LEFTISTS DENOUNCE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PA2104O6Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0207 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 21 Feb (EFE)--The Colombian leftist political coalition composed of the National Opposition Union-National Popular Alliance-Independent Liberal Movement (UNO-ANAPO-MIL) today charged before the United Nations that human rights continue to be violated in Colombia. In a statement released to the public, the opposition political groups also denounced the systematic disregard of political guarantees in the conduct of the leftwing's electoral campaign.

In their complaint to the United Nations, the leftist politicians stated tha in view of this situation they have withdrawn their representatives from the committee established by the government to watch over the elections. The spokesmen of the three leftist political groups reiterated tneir criticism of the way that army troops treat the peasants. They indicated that the continuation of the state of siege in the country precludes free electoral campaign with sufficient guarantees.

LLERAS RESTREPO OPPOSED TO 'PERUVIANIZATION' OF PRESS

PA171918Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo is against the Peruvianization of the newspapers in Colombia. He said that the country is not prepared to take such a step and that the newspapers' workers are not sufficiently mature to take over the newspapers.

It was President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen who on 9 February, when receiving the certificate granting him the status of professional newsman, suggested turning over newspapers to cooperatives owned by the workers.

FARC GUERRILLAS CLASH WITH GOVERNMENT TROOPS

PA210250Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Cimitarra--One guerrilla was killed and several soldiers wounded during a spectacular clash between a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] group and 5th Brigade troops. The incident occurred at La Romelia, Cimitarra jurisdiction.

Fifth Brigade spokesmen have refused to reveal the names of the wounded soldiers or the dead insurgents. It was unofficially reported that a large quantity of subversive propaganda, campaign equipment, arms and ammunition and radio equipment were abandoned by the guerrillas in their haste to flee into the mountains. The (?Galan) Battalion and the 5th Brigade troops are trying to locate the guerrillas.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISCUSSES NEW ELECTION LAW

PA211434Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The political aspirations of three potential Ecuadorean presidential candidates were sidelined today with the enactment of the new election law, which will serve as the legal instrument for the 16 July 1978 presidential and sectional elections. The election law principally affects Asaad Bucaram, leader of the Concentration of Popular Forces, former President Velasco Ibarra and Carlos Julio Arosemena Monroy, national director of the Nationalist Revolutionary Party. Article 47 of the election law establishes that in order to become president or vice president one must be an Ecuadorean citizen by birth, but the transitory articles state that for this one time, for the 16 July elections, the president of the republic, who is also the commander in chief of the armed forces, must be Ecuadorean by birth and the son of an Ecuadorean father or mother, also by birth. Concerning presidential nonreelection, the same Article 47 requires that a candidate must not have previously exercised the presidency.

During a news conference held at the presidential palace, Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin said in presenting to the newsmen the extensive text of the election law: [begin recording]

[Jarrin] I wish to say that this law has been approved following a thorough study. And I should emphasize that the proposals submitted by the third legislative commission have logically been the basis for the law. The requirements established in the law, especially those which must be fulfilled by Ecuadorean citizens who wish to become president and vice president of the republic, are the decision of the armed forces and, therefore, have their absolute support. With this I am ready to answer your questions. I hope that they will not be very long [words indistinct] you will read the texts.

[Question] The fifth transitory article eliminates the candidacy of Asaad Bucaram. Can you say that these decisions of the law have the full backing of the armed forces? In addition to the support of the armed forces, do these articles and especially the one [word indistinct] have the support of some political sectors? The political parties, especially the Constitutionalist National Front, which promotes the candidacy of architect Duran Ballen for example, have expressed their opposition to this measure contained in the election law. The specific question is, other than the armed forces, has anyone else asked for such measures?

[Answer] I wish to repeat that the armed forces have decided to demand respect for these requirements on this occasion and always for those who wish to become president or vice president of the republic. It does not apply to any person in particular but to any Ecuadorean citizen. The armed forces itself must be consistent with the spirit of the Ecuadorean nationality and for that reason it will always demand these requirements. I believe that answers your question.

[Question] Mr Minister, which candidates have been specifically affected by this new requirement [words indistinct]?

[Answer] I urge you to study the election law and reach your own conclusions because we are not trying to affect John Doe or Jack Smith. (?As the result of national consensus), we established specific norms to which they must conform. Therefore, we are not trying to affect anyone in particular.

[Question] The law also apparently eliminates the candidacies of former presidents as well as the military members who are not on active service and who want to be candidates. This would include Rear Adm Jarrin Ampudia [words indistinct].

[Answer] I think it corresponds to the spirit of the election law itself [words indistinct]. The new constitution contains the principle of nonreelection. In fact, it provides that one of the requirements to be a candidate for the presidency and vice presidency of the republic as well as to become provincial prefect, municipal mayor and deputy mayor, which is also one of the official posts in the municipalities, is that he must not have previously exercised that office. This establishes the nonreelection principle.

Concerning your specific question about military members on active duty [as heard], the law provides that they cannot be candidates until 6 months after they have retired and with the authorization which must be given by the defense minister in the case of national civilian police. This does not mean that he cannot be a candidate but that he must hold consultations and state that he wants to be a candidate for the presidency, vice presidency, mayor or deputy mayor. Let us say that he has to comply with a more fundamental requirement because he continues to be dependent upon the armed forces or the police.

[Question] With this latest provision adopted by the military government [words indistinct] the opinion of the existence of an official candidacy. In the last few hours many citizens and political leaders have expressed the opinion that this provision is anointing a president under the [word indistinct] of the Ecuadorean Armed Forces. Please comment on this.

[Answer] I believe that this is your opinion, but please do not ask me to concur with you. I repeat that if the legal possibility existed to establish an official candidate, one could at least say that an official candidate existed. But the law does not provide for official candidates. Consequently, I cannot answer your question (?because you want me to concur with your opinion).

[Question] Mr Minister, [words indistinct] the Ecuadorean people are waiting for the election law. Could you please read the law so that all Ecuadoreans will know what it is all about?

[Answer] It contains no less than 57 pages, or even more. It would be impossible. It would take me approximately 2 hours. I urge you to use your communications media to inform the Ecuadorean people.

[Question] Mr Minister, have special regulations been introduced to the [word indistinct] or the rules concerning parties, especially with regard to the electroal quotient required for registration?

[Answer] Well, in fact, no reforms have been made. What is established [words indistinct] to be recognized. A transitory article provides that the parties which were registered in 1970 and recognized as parties can reregister by fulfilling some requirements. In order to be recognized as a political party a new group must also fulfill several requirements, including having registered members equal to 1.5 percent of the previous electroal register. This works out to approximately 28,000 to 30,000 registered members.

[Questiong] Did you use the constitution now in force as a basis?

[Answer] Of course. The proposals made by the third legislative commission took into consideration the provisions which were included in the proposed new constitution, which was approved in the referendum. These provisions are set forth in the electoral law we have just enacted.

[Question indistinct]

[Jarrin] I would say that every step we are taking is directed toward the destruction of caudillism, which has almost become ingrained in the Ecuadorean people. We have lived for this destruction. We are now seeking the healthiest way out which will be consistent with our thoughts and desires to strengthen the political parties now so that they will represent the political life of the state.

Bucaram Comments on New Law

PA211745Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Interview conducted by Cadena del Triunfo News Department Director Montalvo Rasero with Asaad Bucaram, leader of the Eucadorean Concentration of Popular Forces--recorded; date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr Bucaram, according to the armed forces organic law the president of the republic is the commander in chief of the armed forces, who in turn has to be Eucadorean by birth and the son either of a father or a mother born in Ecuador. This law effectively eliminates you from the presidential race. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] Yes, that is what the armed forces' permanent personnel law says in referring to the personnel on active duty in the three branches of the armed forces. Therefore, the president of the republic can hardly fall into this category. We all know that the president of the republic is not really the commander in chief of the armed forces but that, as president of the republic, he is the head of all the state's departments and institutions. He is the head of the administration, of public services and public institutions. But he is not a general of the armed forces. He is a civilian who, by being the president of the republic, is also the head of the military institution. In my case, I am not even eligible to become a soldier. Our constitution clearly establishes that one must only be an Ecuadorean by birth to be president of the republic. A person just does not become a general by winning a presidential election, and in order to be the commander in chief of the armed forces one has to be a general.

It is obvious that what is being done is to eliminate the candidates who have a good chance of winning. But why do they not come out in the open and say you and you cannot be candidates and stop beating around the bush.

But where do I stand now? I was born in Ecuador; I went to school in Ecuador; I am fully identified with the people and problems of Ecuador; and I am struggling day after day to solve the problem of Ecuador. My wife and my sons are Ecuadoreans. Everything I do and hope for is for the good of Ecuador. But now they tell me I am citizen without the same rights as others. All I can see in this is a plot which leaves the way free and clear to presidential candidate Sixto Duran Ballen [words indistinct] who studied abroad. His distinguished wife, who speaks Spanish with an English accent, is from Puerto Rico and some of his children are aliens, but still I have to face issues regarding my nationality. My parents--my father died 55 years ago [as heard] and my mother 16 years ago--came to this country a long time ago and made this country their home. And now that they are dead, how can they have any influence on my decisions and actions?

In my opinion patriotism or nationality should be measured by the actions and feelings of an individual regarding his country. So far, all my actions have been for the best of my country--Ecuador. For this reason, I am protesting against the military government's measure which I consider to be an electoral fraud never before seen in this country. I feel that it is the fraud of the century. In the past, electoral frauds were carried out by altering the number of votes in favor of the official candidate, but even then there was some respect for the people's opinion. Now, there is no respect. They issue a decree and that is all.

FORMER PRESIDENT VELASCO IBARRA REPORTEDLY TO RETURN

PA212323Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] National Velasquist Director Juan Carlos (Huaime) Estrada said today that the five-time Ecuadorean President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra has expressed his desire to continue serving the people with his experience, political vision and grasp of national problems. He added that the former president will shortly announce his return to the country. Regarding his nomination for a new presidential term, Dr Velasco Ibarra has not yet given a definite answer, since, as could be imagined, his final answer depends on the issuance of the new electoral law by the military dictatorship [words indistinct] at noon today.

Dr Juan Carlos (Huaime) Estrada returned this afternoon from Buenos Aires where he arrived last Tuesday at the head of his party's delegation to inform Dr Velasco Ibarra officially of decisions taken at the national convention held in El Nacional during which agreement was reached on his candidacy for president. Regarding the new electoral law excluding those who have previously held the post of president of the republic, the Velasquist National Directorate, after consulting with its leader, will define the Ecuadorean people's aspirations.

VELASQUIST LEADER REPORTEDLY ARRESTED AT AIRPORT

PA180346Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Carlos Cornejo Orbe, a Velasquist leader, was arrested at the Mariscal Sucre Airport today while waiting for an airplane to Buenos Aires, eyewitnesses have reported. Cornejo was traveling to Buenos Aires to join the Velasquist delegation that is meeting with Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra. The party has nominated Velasco Ibarra as its presidential candidate. According to party sources, Velasco Ibarra has once again declined the nomination. Cornejo has been a persistent critic of the military regime and directed the campaign which urged annulling of the vote in the 15 January referendum.

AROSEMENA MONROY'S PARTY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

PA212106Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Communique by the Revolutionary Nationalist Party issued on 20 February in Guayaquil]

[Text] The military government has further damaged the plan for returning to a constitutional system and has considerably lowered the already low credibility that the people have regarding the plan, by deciding that Carlos Julio Arosemena cannot be a presidential candidate. This grotesque way of closing the circle on politicians who have maintained a clear and upright position against the dictatorship of Rodriguez Lara and his followers, will only increase the number of citizens who firmly believe that the 15 January referendum was a fraud and that the dictatorship has no intentions to establish a new democratic government, and that it is only trying to stay in power or to govern through another person of its preference.

Carlos Julio Arosemena will continue to be the Ecuadorean people's political leader in search of true democracy. The people know very well that Arosemena only seeks the good of the nation and that he does not want the people to be deceived or frustrated by those who try to keep them silent.

FOREIGN MINISTER GIVES REASON FOR ARMS PURCHASES

PA191736Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 19 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, Feb 19 (AFP)--Foreign Affairs Minister Jose de la Puente has said that Peru's arms purchases constitute a guarantee for the survival of the country, whose wealth in the north and the south represents $40 billion. De la Puente, who spoke yesterday at the town of San Pedro de Lloc, 600 km north of Lima, said that if it were not possible to protect it, all that wealth "could disappear in 2 hours because of the nature of modern warfare."

"We have evaluated the potential in the country's south, that is, its industrial, energy, mining, agricultural and other wealth and it represents $20 billion," he said. He noted that Peru has a similar potential in the north, adding that "in other words, the two combined represent interests amounting to $40 billion. All this could disappear in 2 hours because such is the nature of modern warfare."

"In order to defend this enormous potential, let us suppose, as an example, that in the last 6 years we have purchased arms amounting to some $1 billion," he said. "This would involve an insurance premium cost at the rate of 1 to 40 which we would have to pay for our survival in order to defend those $40 billion in wealth in the north and the south, which, as a matter of fact, is all that Peru has."

"We must also bear in mind," he explained, "that the destruction of that potential would require at least 50 years of recovery." He said that at the beginning of his administration, over 2 years ago, he had asked himself about "the reason for all that military spending," even though he was in constant touch with the military members of the government, "because I did not know what the reality was."

Stressing that Peru has the worst geographical and, therefore, geopolitical position in the hemisphere, De la Puente added: "We are surrounded by countries which, for one reason or another, sometimes have had interests in conflict with those of Peru. Fortunately our relations now are peaceful, but nobody can guarantee that there will not be an armed conflict."

"In 1879 (the War of the Pacific) we went through one of our most painful experiences. We suffered it because at that time we were not armed and then, as now, Peru did not want war. What it wanted was security. Unfortunately, the security was to no avail," the foreign minister said. De la Puente is touring the Department of La Libertad, the capital of which is Trujillo, which has been entrusted to him for special attention.

NEW FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENT SYSTEM PROPOSED

PA171550Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0424 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 Feb (AFP)--Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente declared today that Peru will propose to the United Nations that the foreign debt payments of developing nations be limited to a percentage of what they receive from their exports.

The Peruvian minister said it was necessary for Third World nations to agree to amortize their foreign debt at a rate equivalent to 25 percent of their exports based on 25-year periods. He said the Peruvian proposal will be presented at the UN meeting to be held in Geneva in March. "We will amortize our debts in proportion with our resources, and not as they want us to," he asserted.

He disclosed that foreign debt payments absorb 50 percent of the income from Peruvian exports at present. We have to pay our foreign debts but in relation to the nation's development. Otherwise, we run the risk of stagnation. De la Puente said. He also noted that the presence of an International Monetary Fund mission in Peru "is a visit in conjunction with our economic policy and for cooperation with our development." Peru, he stated, has met all its obligations and is now trying to set up an economic study for the coming 5 years.

Regarding the communique in which the Foreign Ministry rejected an Ecuadorean claim over the Amazon region, he said the document was aimed at presenting Peru's position based on the law and the protection of its sovereignty. The foreign minister said Peruvian-Ecuadorean relations are unaltered, and that after the interview held by the military officials of both countries, there had been no other contacts except for those of the routine joint bilateral commissions.

The foreign minister confirmed that his Argentine counterpart, Oscar Montes, will visit Lima next month in answer to an invitation extended to him some time ago. He said no date had been set as yet for President Francisco Morales Bermudez' visit to Argentina.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL POSTPONES COMMUNIST PARTY REGISTRATION

PA172215Y Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 1453 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (LATIN)--The National Electoral Tribunal (JNE) postponed action on the Peruvian Communist Party's (PCP) registration, which would allow it to participate in the 4 June constituent assembly elections.

JNE Chairman Ulises Montaya Manfredi said that the PCP's provisional registration had not been accepted because it had not provided evidence of the installation and operation of 12 departmental committees as is required by law. "The Communist Party," it said, "registered only two departmental committees. It will be given a 10-day deadline to verify the installation and operation of the remaining 10 departmental committees." He warned that "if the PCP does not fulfill this requirement, it will not participate in the elections."

The 10-day period will begin tomorrow, when the Electoral Tribunal notifies the PCP that it must comply with the law." The PCP, however, did present a list of more than 40,000 members as is required by political parties in order to be able to participate in the constituent assembly elections.

Party Opposed to Delay

PA181437Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0319 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (AFP)--The Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] today reported that 13 departments are delaying certification of the existence of its departmental committees, which are indispensable for its registration with the National Electoral Tribunal.

The pro-Soviet PCP was warned today by the tribunal that it has 10 days to correct this deficiency in order to obtain registration to participate in the elections for a constituent assembly in June. The tribunal added that the PCP has already accredited 40,000 followers and 2 committees out of the minimum 12 it must have as a party. The PCP said it has asked the respective authorities to speed up the certification procedure, noting that "there is no justification whatsoever for this delay."

DISTURBANCES IN GUARENAS ; ANTIRIOT TROOPS OCCUPY STREETS

PA220358Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2144 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 21 Feb (EFE)--The burning of the headquarters of the main Venezuelan political parties was the result of the disturbances which occurred today in Guarenas, near Caracas, to protest the death of a 14-year-old student in San Felipe 1 week ago. The local headquarters of the governing Democratic Action [AD] and of the Social Christian Party, the largest opposition force, were seriously damaged yesterday. It was also reported that approximately 20 buses were destroyed, several store windows were broken and $21,000 stolen. Losses of $500,000 were sustained. Metropolitan police helicopters flew over the town sounding their sirens and urging the enraged people to be calm. Approximately 50 persons were arrested and three wounded persons were admitted to social security hospital.

The police are conducting an investigation on an automobile abandoned by four persons wearing laboratory robes who presumably infiltrated the demonstrators to incite them. Today, the streets of Guarenas are still occupied by an antiriot force made up of 600 unarmed and helmet wearing agents and an armored vehicle.

Meanwhile, none of the four suspects in the killing of Carlos Alberto Rivero Pacheco, a young man shot to death last Tuesday during a demonstration in the city of San Felipe, has been arrested. Senator Juan Jose Rachadell of the Social Christian Party has stated that he is prepared to provide the names and addresses of persons who witnessed the shooting in the event that the police are unable to obtain them. Rachadel was the first person to accuse Raul Arcila--the governing party's organization secretary for the state of Yaracuy, who apparently used a 9-mm automatic pistol, similar to the one that killed Rivero, at the regional headquarters of Democratic Action.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez stated regarding this case that "the worst thing that can happen in a democracy is to have crimes go unpunished." The president said that what distinguishes a de jure state, and enhances the values of a democracy, is that a democracy must not only try to curb and control criminality as much as possible, but must also make certain that the guilty are punished. The chief of state said he deeply regrets the San Felipe incident. He stated: "The death of any citizen is a source of great sorrow for us, and if it is a young life that is lost then for more reason we feel great anguish and concern."

The president said that there are persons who unnecessarily provoke these types of incidents in Venezuela, a country that enjoys a true climate of freedom. Finally, President Perez announced that he has ordered the Judicial technical police to work on this case on a top priority basis in order to clear it up completely and bring the guilty parties before a court of Justice.

Interior Minister Blames Ultraleft

PA220411Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Octavio Lepage has stated that the student disturbances that have taken place in the past few hours have been provoked by ultraleftist groups.

[Lepage--begin recording] (?And those of the ultraleft say that they do not believe in anything but violence) and they do not realize that they are doing great harm to the Venezuelan youth, which needs to study and to be prepared to build the nation. [end recording] The interior minister also said that common criminals are taking advantage of the disturbances. [begin recording] Disturbances are used by common criminals and by all sorts of agitators. [end recording] Regarding the punishment that will be administered to the persons arrested as a result of the disturbances, the minister said: [begin recording] The law establishes penalties for persons involved in these types of crimes. However, the unfortunate situation here is that most of the arrested persons are minors. These are young people who have been dragged into this situation. We have to give them different treatment, of course. [end recording]

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES OFFICIAL ON RESULTS OF VISIT

PA171357 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0320 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 16 Feb (EFE)--Venezuela today reached an agreement with the Netherlands Antilles, an autonomous entity within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on the essential bases for signing a treaty delimiting marine and submarine areas. This was revealed by Netherlands Antilles Minister-President Sylvius Rozendaal, who has been in Venezuela since Sunday on an official 5-day visit. He held a second meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez today and will meet with him again tomorrow morning. The delimitation problem is the result of the international concept of the 200-mile sea. Since there are only 56 km between the island of Aruba--the closest island of the Antilles--and the Venezuelan coast, the jurisdictions of the two countries overlap in the Caribbean Sea. Rozendaal said that the agreements only consider the possibility of joint exploitation of the marine and submarine resources if they are found on the dividing line that will be established.

A joint communique stated that negotiations for the sea delimitation will be held on 24 February in Curacao, the island where Willemstad, the capital of the Netherlands Antilles, is located. Rozendaal, who is accompanied by his ministers of finance, economic affairs, social affairs and labor and other advisers, also reached agreement with the Venezuelan Government on the drafting of a general economic agreement which will serve as the framework for the development of cooperation between the two countries.

The Antilles delegation exchanged opinions with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi, the acting president of the Congress and other Venezuelan authorities as well as with President Perez. Those talks helped to determine the possibilities of immediate cooperation in the fields of energy, water supply, housing programs, facilties for professional studies and training and selective immigration. They also discussed the possibilities of cooperation in various sectors to develop cultural, informational, educational, health and scientific ties. The visit served to promote relations between the respective parliaments, and for this purpose they agreed to establish mechanisms for parliamentary exchange. They also viewed the possibility of encouraging relations among the labor, management and public administration sectors. President Carlos Andres Perez accepted Rozendaal's invitation to visit the Netherlands Antilles. He might make the visit in the second half of March, at which time the Venezuelan chief of state would sign the delimitation agreement.

The local authorities of the Netherlands Antilles held talks with the Netherlands in 1974 regarding the independence of the islands. The talks were postponed until 1980. In 1977, a referendum on independence showed 57 percent of the voters in favor of independence. In view of this situation, some Venezuelan political observers have given speculations on the alleged support of Venezuela for that independence in view of the agreements reached this week.

KIDNAPED INDUSTRIALIST RETURNS HOME SAFELY

PA2104132 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0351 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guadalajara, 20 Feb (LATIN)--Industrialist Michael Traysaty returned home tonight amid a shroud of mystery that surrounded his 6-hour disappearance in this northern Mexican city.

Rodolfo Gonzalez, an employee of the apartment building where Traysaty lives, told this agency that "Mr Traysaty has just returned. He is well. That is all I can tell you." Meanwhile, his sister told local newsmen that "Michael is well. He just called us on the telephone and he is coming home."

Traysaty, whose nationality is Lebanese-Mexican, was reportedly kidnaped by four young armed men. The group kidnaped him in the residential area of Guadalajara. It was at first reported that Traysaty was a U.S. citizen of Syrian-Lebanese descent, but Gonzalez said that he is "Lebanese-Mexican."

The industrialist's disappearance, which took place in this city, 450 km from Mexico City, was surrounded by mystery ever since it was first reported.

POLISARIO LEADER MEETS WITH LOPEZ-PORTILLO

FL182332Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2108 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mustafa Sayed, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic vice president and POLISARIO deputy secretary general, has thanked Mexico for its support for the total independence of his country. During the meeting granted to Mustafa Sayed, Mexican chief executive Jose Lopez-Portillo stated that Mexico will support the Western Saharan people's struggle in all international forums until they achieve their total liberty, independence and national sovereignty.

In addition, he stated that the Mexican Government follows with interest and sympathy the development of this struggle, and it is interested in developing closer ties between the Mexican and Western Saharan peoples. Afterward, in statements to the press, Mustafa Sayed called on the French Government to withdraw its combat planes and to stop intervening against his people who are struggling for their liberty and sovereignty. He noted that on one of their last incursions over Western Saharan civilian populations, French planes dropped phosphorous and napalm, killing 35 women and children. He expressed his hope that the meeting of the organization [as received] from 22 to 30 March, with the possible attendance by Morocco and Mauritania, will find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Western Sahara.

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION INCOME--Petroleum exports during 1977 produced $140 million for Mexico, according to the deputy secretary for foreign trade. He says that part of the income produced by PEMEX will be used to support the country's industrialization. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA]

TORRIJOS' BROTHER DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFIC

PA211438Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Panamanian Ambassador to Spain Moises Torrijos, brother of our Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, has said in regard to charges of drug trafficking raised by senators that this entire matter is nothing but slander, a piece of slander which has arisen at a time when there is new talk about ratification of the treaty. I do not want to delve deeply into the slanderous allegations because I have nothing to defend myself against. The Senate itself will do that for me, Ambassador Torrijos added. This really is blackmail, a desperate bid to delay ratification of the treaty, he said.

LABOR MINISTER: TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED

PA212320Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Statement by Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada During 21 February discussion program on U.S. Senate closed-door hearings--recorded]

[Text] Of course this is a matter of interest to the whole country. It was to be expected that all these things would happen during the treaty ratification process. I can recall that during the convention that took place some weeks ago in Pocri, Cocle Province, General Torrijos said that many things would happen as a result of this ratification process. One of these things is the unfortunate interference of the U.S. Senate in the internal affairs of the country.

While it is obvious that on one hand this is interference in the internal affairs of the country, and on the other that slanders are being openly disseminated about the top leaders of our process, and especially about General Torrijos and his family, I think that the Panamanian people must have a calm and thoughtful attitude.

I think that nothing could be better for the opponents of the treaty and of Panama than to have the main topic in the international debate between Panama and the United States at this moment be that of drug trafficking, human rights and the like and not the fundamental matter: the treaty. If we Panamanians adopt thoughtless, light-headed and disturbed attitudes and make this Senate closed-door session the main, basic and priority topic, and forget that the main subject is ratification or nonratification of the treaty, then we would be playing the game that the enemies of Panama want us to play. That would mean placing the treaty, its contents and its future for Panama on a secondary level and putting secondary problems that can be easily explained and clarified into first place.

So, what Panama needs right now most of all is the draw from its reserves of calm and poise. This is what we need now more than ever: the great poise that the Panamanian people have always demonstrated, which is not incompatible with our capacity to struggle at the moment that circumstances demand it. However, now we must be calm. If we get angry regarding the slanders, let us do it privately. If we get angry about this interference in the internal affairs of Panama, let us do it in private. If we get angry, let us do it with a cool head, cool enough so that we may prevent any effort to put the problems related to the treaty contents at a secondary level.

If we adopt this tactical attitude, I think that the Panamanian people will come out much stronger. After the ratification we can argue, clarify, denounce and pass judgment. We can do whatever we think may suit our sovereign interests. However, now the tactical attitude is to remain calm in the face of a problem that is practically solved because, after all, all this is nothing but dust-kicking from sectors who do not want to admit a historic situation: that the treaty will be ratified despite everything.

This is my opinion regarding this problem.

U.S. STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE, URGE STRIKE IN CANAL ZONE

PA211928Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] This morning, over 200 U.S. students held a demonstration in front of the Canal Zone Administration Building. They protested against the Torrijos-Carter treaties and demanded a general strike. The Zonian students promised not to return to classes until the issue is solved, but did not specify the solution to the thorny canal issue. The students are practically pushing their parents to strike, a Panama Canal official said.

Last Thursday, another demonstration took place in Balboa in front of the administration building to discuss whether the U.S. workers of the Panama Canal were to go on strike. A very radical labor leader, William Drummond, of the Canal Zone policemen's union, urged a sick-out movement similar to the one which nearly halted canal operations in March 1976. However, on the following day there were no reports of any absenteeism by U.S. workers.

Many observers define the situation of the Canal Zone as the swan song inasmuch as the days of this enclave are numbered; once the treaties are ratified. This is why the enemies of the treaties are making efforts these days to stop the ratification.

As part of these efforts, a rally will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, in Balboa Stadium, where three well-known opponents of the canal treaties will speak--David Marriot, Republican congressman from Utah; Mickey Edwards, Republican from Oklahoma; and Franklin (Sibert), a retired colonel and a direct descendant of one of the builders of the Panama Canal. An effort will be made in tomorrow's rally to again push the idea of a general strike, but this is doomed to failure according to the experts in view of the refusal of the pilots and electronic experts--key men in the canal's operation--to join the strike.

Another opponent of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, Governor Meldrim Thompson, from New Hampshire, will speak tonight to a group of U.S. citizens at the American Legion Club in Fort Amador.

CHILEAN POLITICAL PRISONER RELEASED AT PANAMA'S REQUEST

PA191352Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0317 GMT 19 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 18 Feb (AFP)--Robinson Perez Vera, a young Chilean politician who was released by the Chilean Government at Panama's request, arrived here tonight as an exile.

Perez Vera has been in jail in Chile for the past 4 years, serving a 15-year sentence for activities directed against Gen Augusto Pinochet's government. He was chief of the department of organization of the Chilean Socialist Party, and was in charge of the party's military apparatus.

Perez Vera's release, which had already been requested by Great Britain and Venezuela, was arranged by Aristides Royo, Panama's minister of education, during his recent visit to Santiago, Chile. Royo and Chilean Ambassador Joaquin Meza met Perez Vera at the airport tonight. Perez Vera plans to travel to England to join his wife before deciding where he will reside.

SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLAND

PA1720145Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Government, through the Education Ministry, has signed an agreement for cooperation in scientific and cultural education with the Republic of Poland. During the signing ceremony, which took place in the yellow room of the Foreign Ministry, Panama was represented by Education Minister Dr Aristides Royo and Poland was represented by Polish Ambassador to Panama Jozef Klasa. Also present were Dr Hugo Brin Martinez, Hugo (Giraud), Charge d'Affairs of the Polish Embassy Zbigniew Zawada and Polish Cultural Attache Stanislaw Grudzinski.

The purpose of the agreement, which will last for 5 years and is renewable, is to promote cooperation between the two countries in the areas of culture and science. In addition, there is a desire to strengthen the friendship between the two countries. Panama has signed agreements of this type with other nations such as Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The following is a portion of the statement made by Jozef Klasa, Polish ambassador to Panama: [begin recording] A little while ago, in signing the agreement for cultural and scientific cooperation, we took another very important step in the development of friendly relations between our nations and our respective governments. I say another step because, some years ago, particularly after the victory of the revolution led by Gen Omar Torrijos, our cultural and scientific cooperation had taken good paths. For this reason, Panamanians had the opportunity to see many Polish films, to hear some concerts of Polish music and to see several theater productions in which artists of my country performed. Several youths have pursued university studies in Poland. At present, as you know, 19 Panamanians are studying in universities in my country--in Warsaw, Krakow and other cities. In the same manner, we in Poland are familiar with Panamanian culture. [end recording]

For his part, Minister Royo highlighted the creation of a program for the implementation of the Polish-Panamanian cultural agreement. He said the following: [begin recording] Panama, a country which is open, a highly cosmopolitan country with a canal through which the ships of the entire world travel, is a country with a great devotion to friendship, with a great devotion to international friendship. It is a country with a people and a government who feel no prejudice of any kind. And now that Panama is preparing for a new treaty with the United States, a treaty which was concluded in September of last year, it is a country which also has a great devotion, a devotion which is longstanding and which we are now again demonstrating, a devotion to neutrality. It is precisely this neutrality which must help us to maintain closer and better relations with all the countries of the world.

Today, a very important event is taking place which also has historic importance because, as you have stated, it is the first agreement to be signed by Panama and Poland. We are quite sure, Ambassador Klasa, that it will not be the last, that this agreement will lead to others. However, we must be happy that this agreement concerns educational, scientific and cultural cooperation. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

TRADE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH CUBA

PA211439Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] An official mission will leave for Cuba on Thursday to sign the first trade agreement with that Caribbean nation. This was reported by the director of the Center for Promotion of Exports and Investments, Enrique Gonzalez Colombari.

Costa Rica will propose the sale of 48 products, particularly construction materials, foodstuffs and forestry products. For its part, Cuba will sell us 206 generic (?medical) products and rum.

EL SALVADOR

SALVADORAN, HONDURAN PRESIDENTS TO MEET IN MARCH

PA212103Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The presidents of El Salvador and Honduras, accompanied by their wives, will meet some time in March. Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero has made the announcement, adding that the two presidents will also be accompanied by high-ranking government officials as well as important business executives.

President Romero made the announcement during a news conference upon his return from a tour through the southern part of the United States where he greeted the Honduran first lady.

Romero on U.S. Visit

PA212009Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] When he returned from the United States, the president of the republic said that, in addition to the traditional export products from El Salvador, the United States is also interested in those products that are still nontraditional, such as woolen fabrics, ornamental machetes, hammocks, ceramics, wooden furniture, [word indistinct] articles and other handicrafts. The president spent 3 days in the United States at the invitation of Terence Todman, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero told SERCANO: I found a positive image of El Salvador in the southern U.S. cities I toured last week, particularly among the mass media, as shown during a news conference I held. Other topics such as the Panama Canal were discussed during the conference.

UN OFFICIAL ESCAPES ATTEMPTED KIDNAPING

PA212308Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1925 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 21 Feb (LATIN)--Bolivian economist Manuel Luna Uzkuiame, an adviser at the UN offices in this country, managed to escape from two men who had kidnaped him this morning by causing an accident in front of a police station as his kidnapers were driving him to some unknown location.

According to authorities, Luna had been kidnaped by two armed men as he was on his way to give a lecture at one of San Salvador's private companies. The two men, one of whom was later arrested, were driving Luna away in his own car.

On the way to the place where they were allegedly planning to hide the official, the kidnapers had to drive by a police station. Luna took advantage of this to disarm one of the men and to force the other one, who was driving the vehicle, to crash in front of a patrol car, which immediately intervened.

Luna, whose face was slightly injured in the accident, identified himself and the patrolmen arrested one of the kidnapers, who was identified as Salvadoran citizen Inocente Oaxaca Fernandez. Oaxaca Fernandez was also injured in the accident. The other kidnaper, who has not yet been identified, reportedly managed to escape.

The police have not yet disclosed the kidnapers' political affiliation.

GUATEMALA

POLICE BEGIN SEARCH FOR JAPANESE TERRORISTS

PA212018Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1952 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan police began a search here today for a group of terrorists of the Japanese Red Army who, it is believed, came from Mexico.

Local authorites have been alerted by the Japanese Embassy concerning the possibility that the Japanese group might be in Guatemalan territory. These terrorists are the ones who hijacked a Japan Air Lines aircraft and demanded the release of five of their comrades. Afterward, they fled to Algeria and then to America.

According to the Guatemalan police, the group is on its way to Colombia, where they will meet with German and Latin American terrorists. Border posts with Mexico in the north and with El Salvador in the south were placed on a state of alert.

MINISTRY DENOUNCES CHARGES BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PA211613Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1521 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Ministry of Government and Interior today denied the validity of charges made by Amnesty International that 113 people are missing in this country. According to the ministry, Amnesty International is "a front for the communists." The ministry added that Amnesty International's charges are not backed by any real evidence.

The charges also claim that 20,000 Guatemalans have died at the hands of armed para-military groups since 1966.

NICARAGUA

DISTURBANCES FOLLOW MASS FOR SLAIN JOURNALIST

PA212219Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1654 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Masaya, Nicaragua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--New outbreaks of violence occurred in Masaya last night and this morning after a mass in memory of murdered journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Those who attended the mass tried to hold a demonstration to protest against the government. This brought about the intervention of National Guard troops. According to reports, the demonstration was dispersed with tear gas, which affected dozens of persons, including children, who took refuge in private homes where they were given first aid by Red Cross volunteers. One youth, Claudia Castro, was seriously injured and was admitted to a local hospital.

Subsequently, before dawn today, after the guardsmen had returned to their quarters, unidentified individuals threw Molotov cocktails at the Guadalajara theater owned by Somoza supporters. The theater was partially destroyed by the Molotov cocktails, rocks and sticks thrown by the demonstrators. The projectors were damaged and rolls of film were strewn about the floor. The firemen who went to put out the fire were attacked by the demonstrators. Fireman Alejandro Robleto was injured while fighting the blaze. The same persons who attacked the theater also burned a taxi.

The Masaya National Guard command refused to comment to ACAN-EFE about the incidents, stating that the army's legal and public relations office is the only one authorized to release such information.

Managua was also the center of disturbances recently after a mass for Chamorro. A doctor of the Managua military hospital was killed in the disturbances which followed religious services.

SOMOZA INTERVIEWED ON RECENT POLITICAL CRISIS

PA212153Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1402 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Interview by LATIN correspondent Agustin Fuentes with President Anastasio Somoza at the presidential office in Managua--date not given]

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (LATIN)--[Question] Mr President, do you have anything to say about the recent political crisis that your administration has experienced?

[Answer] The recent crisis was caused by the opposition to my administration. They had been planning it for some time so as to take advantage of the lifting of the special measures (restoration of constitutional rights). They also took advantage of the killing of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro to achieve their aims. They staged a partial stoppage of business and industry to topple my administration. As everyone knows, they failed.

[Question] What do you think about the businessmen's attitude toward the strike?

[Answer] I think many businessmen participated in the strike because its organizers originally asked them to do so in demand for justice in the case of the investigation of Chamorro's death. Later, however, when the strikers called for the president's resignation, many of those businessmen and industrialists realized they were being used. This is what broke the movement, because it is normal to seek justice but not the resignation of a constitutionally elected president.

[Question] What do you have to say about the charges of human rights violations leveled against your administration?

[Answer] I think that there is not a single nation that is not being questioned on its human rights policy. Our adversaries overseas have decided to try to discredit Nicaragua. I think everyone knows about all those who have died in fighting in Nicaragua. However, I cannot account for any missing individuals, because I have no knowledge of their existence.

[Question] Is there any truth to the report about a possible visit to Nicaragua by the OAS Human Rights Commission?

[Answer] Well, this is a matter that my administration is negotiating with that commission. Right now, we cannot foresee anything specific on it.

[Question] What about a dialog to solve Nicaragua's political problems, as has been suggested in a U.S. State Department communique?

[Answer] Well, as you know, I am ready to hold that dialog. I said I would be willing to hold a dialog after the municipal elections, and now I am ready. We will seek a timely dialog with the opposition and any group that wants to hold a dialog with the government or the Nationalist Liberal Party.

[Question] Then, are you going to promote the dialog?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] How are your relations with the Catholic Church at the present time?

[Answer] Well, my relations with the Catholic Church can be considered thus. We have them. Naturally, the Catholic Church in Nicaragua has taken a very liberal turn. There are priests who express their political views, and that is every citizen's right here in Nicaragua. However, the church as an institution fulfills its duties toward us just as we fulfill our duties toward it.

[Question] There has been talk of possible participation by other political parties, in addition to the traditional Liberal and Conservative parties, in future Nicaraguan elections.

[Answer] No party has ever been denied participation in Nicaraguan elections. On this occasion, if any party or group feels that it is sufficiently strong, it can perfectly well request to become a recognized party. I am certain that it will be given its legal standing.

[Question] Will the requirements for application be eased to make the participation of other parties in the elections possible?

[Answer] I cannot answer that, because that will be part of the dialog.

[Question] Also, with respect to the dialog, there has been talk of reforms of the present national constitution.

[Answer] Yes, that could be possible as a result of the dialog.

[Question] It has been said that your government has hired mercenaries.

[Answer] There are no mercenaries in Nicaragua. What we do have are three or four instructors who teach in the specialized army schools.

[Question] The basic infantry training school under the direction of your son Anastasio has been described as a special force within the National Guard. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] It is the same school. We have only strengthened it because we have to provide better training for those who will be entering the army. It does not constitute a special force. It only trains recruits. The special force idea has been invented by biased persons, just as many other things have been invented against us.

[Question] It is being said that the businessmen and industrialists who went on strike are complaining about possible reprisals. What can you say about this?

[Answer] The only reprisals possible are those they are applying to themselves by paying the bill for the strike. The government is not interested in taking reprisals against those who did not violate any law by striking.

[Question] What could you tell us about the affirmation that a democratization process is needed in Nicaragua?

[Answer] Well, you know that I have always been in favor of holding a dialog with the opposition. If a change that is positive for Nicaragua comes out of the dialog, we will implement it.

[Question] It has been said that the Somoza family has been in power for 44 consecutive years. Is that true?

[Answer] They say that we have been in power all those years to discredit the Somoza family. But the truth is that during that time there have been presidents who have not been Somozas and that whenever a Somoza has reached power he has done so on the basis of the popular vote. To be in power in Nicaragua is to be president of the republic. It is a fact that the Somoza family has had a political career that goes back all those years.

[Question] What about the U.S. Government decision not to grant Nicaragua any more credits for the purchase of weapons?

[Answer] The United States has always given it allies facilities to buy weapons. That is a facility that they give or take in accordance with their own interests.

[Question] But can your government buy weapons in other countries?

[Answer] Yes, without any problem; of course it can.

[Question] Is your government already buying weapons?

[Answer] I believe we have already bought certain arms in other countries.

[Question] What countries? In Europe?

[Answer] I cannot tell you at this moment.

[Question] Do you believe that the Nationalist Liberal Party can win the 1981 elections?

[Answer] After seeing the Liberal Party's behavior in the municipal elections held on 1 February, and if the party leaders and candidate appeal to our followers, I am sure that we will win the 1981 elections.

[Question] What is the Sandinist National Liberation Front's current situation?

[Answer] It is a small group, like those that exist in other countries. The doors to a dialog are also open to them if they lay down their weapons and wish to seek the country's good.

[Question] And what, General, are your personal plans for when a new government comes into power after the 1981 elections?

[Answer] To abandon the presidency and dedicate myself to my private affairs.

[Question] Would you also withdraw from the army?

[Answer] Yes, because by then I would have completed my 30 years of service. (In Nicaragua military officers retire after 30 years of service at the discretion of the commander of the National Guard.)

SECOND BOMB ATTACK STAGED ON NEWSMAN'S OFFICE

PA211912Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Terrorists who were riding in a white Ford hurled a powerful homemade bomb at the office of newsman Pedro Pablo Espinoza today. The incident took place at about 2300 when the entire Rigueros neighborhood was quiet. When the residents heard the powerful explosion, they rushed to their doorsteps in alarm. The powerful bomb did no property damage and did not hurt anyone, but it frightened the peaceful neighborhood.

This is the second time an attack has been staged against newsman Espinoza's office. On a previous occasion, it barely escaped being set on fire.

Managua police rushed to the scene of the incidents and removed the shrapnel.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE DENOUNCES VIOLATIONS

PA171910Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1557 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Another document denouncing alleged human rights violations in Nicaragua was submitted to the army's legal and public relations office by a permanent committee which maintains a watch over these rights in the country. The document disagrees with statements made yesterday by a U.S. State Department official who told the U.S.Congress that there has been "marked progress regarding the human rights situation in Nicaragua since the beginning of 1977." Signed by 18 members of the human rights permanent committee, the document is based on another document issued by U.S. Capuchin monks at a meeting of Christians held in this capital last November.

In the document the committee refers to "the indisputable truth and accuracy of the testimony submitted by the Capuchin monks" regarding the exact number of peasants who have disappeared along the Atlantic coast, numbering 312. The document also mentions the impact that the disappearance of these peasants has had on their families and says that "these criminal acts merit special attention."

The document mentions among many of the crimes committed peasants being dropped from helicopters, confiscation of property and work without pay.

MEETING OF SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIANS BEGINS

Blas Roca Address

FL212125Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Our National Assembly's accession to the Interparliamentary Union, whose meeting we have just begun, incorporates us into a field where we can coordinate viewpoints and efforts aimed at common principles and objectives, National People's Government Assembly President Blas Roca has stated. The PCC Politburo member made the opening remarks at the consultative meeting of chairmen of socialist parliamentary groups which has opened in our capital.

Sitting at the presidium of the ceremony, held at the Havana Libre Hotel, were Raul Roa, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and vice president of the National Assembly; Deputies Faustino Perez, Aleida Marx and Jose Aranaburu, secretary of the Cuban state's highest body.

At the conclusion of the opening speech, the participants proceeded to elect the meeting's president, unanimously selecting Comrade Raul Roa.

In his speech Blas Roca pointed out that the consultative meeting of chairmen of socialist parliamentary groups will take up, among many other topics, general problems dealing with peace, such as peaceful coexistence, strengthening detente, and the progress of talks on general and complete disarmament. Other matters to be discussed include efforts to establish international economic relations that would remove the injustices and abuses of unequal trade and discriminatory treatment in international trade.

The president of the National People's Government Assembly stressed that these problems affect all countries, large and small, and are major problems in today's world. He pointed out that such topics are of great interest to countries of the so-called Third World, which require adequate conditions to develop as free national entities.

Our socialist countries, which devote all their energies to the well-being of man and his full development, make their greatest efforts in advancing the cause of peace in a world where peaceful coexistence would reign, Blas Roca stated. He added that emphasis is also placed on seeing to it that those relations bring reality to the development of the countries of the so-called Third World as well as to those nations which until very recently have been subjected to different forms of exploitation and foreign oppression.

The president of the National Assembly said: We consider the Interparliamentary Union to be an institution in which initiatives that favor the future of peaceful coexistence and the adoption of progressive measures in the field of international relations can be discussed. He indicated that those aspirations and the reasoning supporting them are also shared by our socialist regime, by our revolutionary process.

Blas Roca declared in his opening remarks that our positions in the international sphere are based on principles that are clearly outlined in the political platform adopted by our First Party Congress. He recalled that the first of those principles clearly states that, in conducting its international policy, Cuba will subordinate its own interests to the general interest of the struggle for socialism and communism. Cuba will also subordinate its interests to the struggle for national liberation, to the defeat of imperialism, and to the elimination of colonialism and any other type of exploitation of or discrimination against peoples and men.

Blas Roca added that those principles outlined in the political platform are afforded juridical justification by our country's supreme law, the socialist constitution.

Blas Roca denounced the infamous campaign undertaken against our country by the Chinese leadership on the occasion of our determined aid to the fraternal Angolan people in the face of the aggression conducted by the South African racists and other puppets of imperialism. He pointed out that at present the campaign is intensifying because of the cooperation we are giving Ethiopia, which has been invaded by Somali troops, while the vilifiers remain silent on the blockade against our country and the occupation of Cuban territory by North American troops at the Guantanamo Naval Base.

He stressed that our country will always fulfill its duties dealing with internationalist solidarity. We are interested in normalizing relations with the United States, in eliminating the blockade, and in normal and mutually advantageous trade with neighboring countries. But this will not be done in exchange for the abandonment of or in detriment to our principles; it will not be done in exchange for turning our backs on the just causes of peoples under attack, Blas Roca stated.

Blas Roca pointed to the fact that the consultative meeting of chairmen of the socialist parliamentary group is being held on the year of the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival, when all our people are intensifying the preparations to welcome and provide a pleasant stay for the youths and students of the world. Both events, the festival and meeting, despite their difference in magnitude, are based on the same ideals of class, popular and national emancipation, and on the common aspiration that the world be freed from wars and the burden of arms. He also pointed out that our people are also preparing for another event of great importance, the nonalined summit meeting, which will be held in Havana next year. The president of the National People's Government Assembly pointed out that the chiefs of state and governments of nonalined countries will find in Cuba the warmth of sincere friendship and the most ardent atmosphere of unity and solidarity.

Lao Delegation's Arrival

FL181940Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1726 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Invited by the National People's Government Assembly, a delegation headed by Simoi Namasa, permanent member of the Lao Supreme People's Council and deputy chief of the national budget and planning commission, has arrived in our country. The delegation will participate as observers to the consultation meeting for presidents of socialist parliamentary groups to be held from 21 to 23 February at the Havana Libre Hotel ambassadors hall. Also in the delegation is Savang Chantepha, member of the Lao Supreme People's Council and member of the national budget and planning commission. Comrade Dalia A. Garcia, deputy to the National People's Government Assembly, and other National Assembly officials welcomed the distinguished guests at Jose Marti International Airport.

Blas Roca Meets Polish Delegation

FL211920Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo Member Blas Roca Calderio, National People's Government Assembly president, has received the Polish People's Republic delegation visiting our country to participate in the consultative meeting of the chairmen of socialist countries inter-parliamentary groups that began today in our capital. The Polish delegation is headed by Eugeniusz Mielcarek, candidate member of the PZPR Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Sejm commission for science and culture and member of the parliamentary group.

Blas Roca Meets Romanians

FL211922Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Blas Roca Calderio, National People's Government Assembly president, has received the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania visiting our country to participate in the consultative meeting of chairmen of socialist interparliamentary groups. The Romanian delegation is headed by Tudor Dragamu, chairman of the Constitution and Legal Commission of the Romanian Grand National Assembly and deputy chairman of that country's Interparliamentary Union.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF USSR ARMED FORCES MARKED

Yefimov, Marinello Speak

FL211345Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The main event honoring the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy has been held at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association headquarters here in Havana. Soviet Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces, and PCC Central Committee member Zoilo Marinello, Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association president, spoke at the event.

Both speakers referred to the close ties of brotherhood and internationalist solidarity existing between both countries' armed forces. In his remarks Marinello recounted the emergence and founding of the Red Army and the principles which nourished the USSR Armed Forces, which he called forces of social progress and bulwark in the anti-imperialist struggle. For his part, Soviet Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov stated that the Soviet Armed Forces were created to defend the victories of the Great October Revolution and the peaceful work of the people.

FAR Navy Event

FL211443Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban Revolutionary Navy main event honoring the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces was held at a unit of this type of armed forces. The event was presided over by Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria, deputy minister-chief of the Revolutionary Navy, Rear Adm Viktor Mikhaylovich (Boinov), and other commanders and officers.

In his remarks Rear Adm Viktor Mihaylovich (Boinov) recounted the military history of the Soviet Armed Forces throughout its 60 years of existence. He also referred to the Soviet combatants' comradeship in arms and struggle with the other socialist countries during the Great Fatherland War and in the period afterward. He pointed out the heroism of the Soviet troops and the whole population which operated in the rearguard, laboring arduously under the watchword: Everything for the front, to save the fatherland from imperialist aggression.

In his closing remarks Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria pointed out the significance to the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--and the whole Cuban population in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. The FAR deputy minister stated that if humanity has not had to live through the horrors of a new world war, and if the imperialists have not been able to divide up the world again, it is mainly because of the Lenin great fatherland's peace policy and economic, ideological and military power. He mentioned the work done by Soviet specialists during these years in strengthening our FAR. He added that they are the true expression of the militant brotherhood existing between the Cuban FAR and the glorious Soviet Armed Forces.

Yefimov in Santiago de Cuba

FL211135Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Soviet Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces and twice Hero of the USSR, has arrived in Santiago de Cuba accompanied by Division Gen Francisco Cabrera, PCC Central Committee alternate member and deputy minister-chief of the Revolutionary Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense. Aleksandr Yefimov and his entourage visited the 26 July Museum and the Siboney farm. At the latter location, the air marshal wrote in the visitors book: Glory to you, glorious sons of the Cuban people who hoisted the banner of the revolution. Progressive humanity will never forget this deed.

ANNIVERSARY OF PARAGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY CELEBRATED

Valdes Menendez Speech

FL212017Y Havana Domestic Radio/TV in Spanish 2239 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Speech by PCC Politburo member Ramiro Valdes Menendez at ceremony marking 30th anniversary of Paraguayan Communist Party held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers Lazaro Pena auditorium in Havana--live]

[Text] Dear Comrades Antonio Maidana, Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, comrades on the dais, comrades all! We are gathered this afternoon to express the most firm, militant and active solidarity of the Cuban revolution with the fraternal Paraguayan people. There is no better occasion than this one. We have gathered for this ceremony when Paraguayan communists, under very difficult circumstances, are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of their party and at a time when we have among us a high and worthy representation of the Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP].

Our people have had the great satisfaction and honor of receiving for several days the fraternal visit of three dear and selfless fighters from the Paraguayan people whom we greet with strongest embrace [appaluse] Antonio Maidana, chairman of the PCP; and Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, members of that party's Central Committee.

It is not easy to summarize in words the admiration one feels in learning of the life, struggle and sacrifices made by these heroic comrades in the face of one of the bloodiest tyrannies which any nation on this continent has ever endured. Antonio Maidana, a communist militant for 42 years, has been detained in jails and concentration camps six times since 1941. The last time, he was jailed for more than 19 years. Alfredo Alcorta, also member of the PCP for 42 years, was first jailed in 1938 and the last of the five times he was jailed he remained incarcerated 19 years. Julio Rojas, a Communist Party member for more than 43 years, was jailed seven times and released with his comrades last year after 19 years of brutal and arbitrary imprisonment for no other reason than that he is a consistent defender of the liberty and dignity of Paraguayan workers.

These three comrades, along with Lolita Lebron and other heroic Puerto Rican independence fighters who have been in Yankee jails over the past 24 years, can symbolize all the political prisoners on this continent for whose liberty and life we must struggle untiringly. They also represent the difficult path, full of sacrifices and hardships, which the Paraguayan people have had to endure under the prolonged and fierce tyranny of Alfredo Stroessner.

The Cuban people's solidarity toward their Paraguayan brothers dates back precisely to the days of the military coup which placed in power this despicable representative of fascism and imperialism. In the years when our people were struggling to free themselves from a very similar military and tyrannical regime, our workers, students and revolutionary combatants more than once raised their voices to condemn the tyranny imposed on Paraguay. We could even say that our two countries were equally the victims of the same imperialist policy. The Batista coup d'etat in Cuba in 1952 was carried out by individuals who had their eyes on the wishes of Washington and the coup received the immediate support of the United States. The military regime of Alfredo Stroessner was imposed in Paraguay in 1954 with the shameful intervention of the United States and Brazil as part of the reactionary wave promoted throughout the continent under the dirty slogan of the cold war.

And if we go back even farther in time, we find that the histories of Paraguay and Cuba--two countries separated by geography and the diverse circumstances under which they have had to live--equally serve to confirm the assertion of Karl Marx to the effect that capitalism came to the world with blood and mud pouring through all its pores.

Paraguay, a South American country which early eliminated the colonial yoke in 1811, already was an independent nation in the years when Cuba was still dragging the colonial chains and the shameful institution of slavery. But in contrast to most of the recently emancipated Latin American countries, the young republic for a time succeeded in avoiding the pressures and penetration of European capitalism, primarily British, and imposed a regime which succeeded in making Paraguay one of America's most advanced countries. Under a government that defended national interests, Paraguay began to develop economically and culturally in a sovereign manner. Industries were developed, foreign monopolistic enterprises and latifundia were proscribed, railroad tracks and lines of communication were established and a national merchant fleet was created.

Such an example, dangerous for the European commercial enterprises and neighboring oligarchies, generated one of the most barbaric and reactionary actions in Latin American history. In 1864, fomented by the British colonialists, the governments of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil unleashed the so-called triple alliance war against Paraguay. In this way, during the years when the Cuban people were taking up arms to start the fight for their independence, the Paraguayan people were losing their sovereignty and were seeing the destruction of everything they had succeeded in creating with their hands. More than two-thirds of the Paraguayan population, including almost all the male population, were killed by the aggressors. The economy was destroyed, the fields demolished and sovereignty crushed. And the country, full of debts and war reparations, was tied to the will of its victorious neighbors.

Only a few years passed and the independence of Cuba also was frustrated before it was born as a result of the military intervention of Yankee imperialism. Since then, our two peoples have had to experience the same history of a fictitious sovereignty, oligarchic domination, latifundia, unemployment, illiteracy, corrupt governments, military coups d'etat and unceasing purges for power. Suffice to say that following that armed aggression, only seven presidents in the entire history of Paraguay were able to complete their term.

And just as our two peoples became brothers through the imperialist domination and neocolonialism, a ray of hope, the victory of the Great October Revolution, also arrived in our lands almost at the same time. Under the influence of its ideas and example, a handful of bold fighters formed our first Marxist-Leninist party in Cuba in 1921...[Valdes corrects himself] in 1925. Three years later in Paraguay, another handful of founders also gave life to the party of the working class and all the oppressed.

Our two peoples continued marching on the difficult paths of the struggle and revolution. At the beginning of the 1930's when the Cuban people were involved in the fight against the Machado tyranny, the Paraguayan people were being pushed by the oil companies and oligarchies into the bloody Chacho war unleashed between fraternal peoples.

A few years later, in 1936, there took place with the support of the people an insurrectional movement which was defeated and followed by the establishment of a fierce military tyranny. In 1947, when the official gangsterism in Cuba was eliminating the united labor movement and assassinating leaders like Aracelio Iglesias and Jesus Menendez, the Paraguayan masses again launched the insurrection and the Communist Party and other progressive forces once more suffered repression, imprisonment and death of many of their principal leaders.

Today, when the North American imperialists hypocritically want to use the themes of bourgeois democracy and respect for so-called human rights, it is appropriate to recall this bitter and heroic history. It was the Yankee imperialists, with the direct participation of the Brazilian military, who imposed this bloody tyranny and have maintained it on the backs of the Paraguayan people for 24 years. It was the Yankee imperialists and their CIA agents who have organized and trained the torturers and henchmen who are responsible for the death of numerous men and women, harassment and mistreatment of thousands of prisoners and persecution and repression unleashed against labor, peasant and student leaders, progressive priests, teachers, intellectuals, women and even young children of political prisoners.

In Paraguay, an impoverished country and a victim of poverty, 50 percent of the national budget is used to sustain the apparatus of fascist repression. The imperialist monopolies and their voracious Brazilian partners have distributed Paraguay's resources among themselves. They occupy its lands, take over the land through infamous concessions, exploit its forests, coldly murder Indian settlers and appropriate enormous energy resources of the Paraguayan rivers with the participation of the usurping and antinational regime of Alfredo Stroessner, who practices the most repugnant selling-out policy in exchange for the military, financial and political backing which has helped him and the privileged clique that is with him in power to become wealthy.

Paraguay very acutely represents the untenable situation which many other Latin American countries are experiencing and which shows that the need for a change in their current structures cannot be postponed. With a territory that is three times larger than Cuba's, the current population of Paraguay is the same as the populations of Havana City Province and Havana Province together, in other words, 2.7 million inhabitants. The peasants represent the national majority and live under conditions of terrible poverty. The infant mortality rate in that country reaches the terrible figure of 125 deaths per 1,000 live births in the first year of life. Sixty-eight percent of the population age 10 and above are illiterate. The number of illiterates is increasingly growing since almost one-half of the country's children have no schools and only a small part of those who register finish primary schooling.

It is estimated that hunger is the direct or indirect cause of 86 percent of all deaths that occur in that country. More than 1 million Paraguayans, or one-third of the population, have emigrated to neighboring countries in search of jobs and to escape from the police regime that maintains the nation in a permanent state of siege.

Smuggling, corruption and thefts have been taken to incredible levels by the tyranny. While the regime grants the most scandalous concessions to the oil and mining monopolies, banks and capitalist enterprises of the United States, Brazil, Western Europe and Japan, the country's foreign debt grows, inflation worsens and the deterioration of the workers' standard of living makes the situation in which the Paraguayan masses live increasingly more explosive and untenable.

The response of the Stroessner regime has been the creation of new concentration camps, persecution of intellectuals and students, repression of the labor movement and establishment of new terror methods. In the past few years, in the face of the tenacity demonstrated by the Communist Party which not only has not been crushed but has also succeeded in notably strengthening its influence and prestige, the tyranny has increased the persecution of militants of the vanguard organization of the working class. The regime itself has been forced to confess that it has apprehended about 150 Communists. However, it refuses to say where they are and what it has done with two outstanding leaders of the Paraguayan workers--Miguel Angel Soler, secretary general of the Communist Party; and (Derliz Villagra), president of the Communist Youth Federation, who were arrested more than 2 years ago.

We believe that it is the duty of all the revolutionary and progressive forces of Latin America and the world to raise their voices high to demand the release of these two comrades and all the other Paraguayan political prisoners, regardless of their ideology and party membership and respect for their lives. To struggle against the fascist repression in Paraguay; report to public opinion all the crimes that are committed against workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, religious, women and children; and to unmask the falsehood of any demagogic maneuver by the tyranny today constitute an obligation of the first order which solidarity imposes on all the continent's militant revolutionaries.

The PCP has issued a just call, that of forming the broadest antidictatorial front as the necessary instrument to depose the bloody Stroessner regime and pave the way for its suffering people to take the path to democracy and true independence. We are certain that this call will find an echo within Paraguay and will have the support of all Latin American revolutionaries and, among these, the full support of our Communist Party of Cuba. This correct call to struggle for the broadest revolutionary and antidictatorial alliance within Paraguay demands the imperative complement of forging the broadest antifascist movement externally. This is why we cannot conceive the battle against the repugnant Paraguayan tyranny except as part of the broader struggle we are called upon to continue and intensify against fascist regimes installed in Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti and other Latin American countries.

This is also a struggle to demand an end to the terrible assassinations, torture and persecution of revolutionary militants in Argentina. It is a struggle which cannot be disassociated from the solidarity with the pro-independence patriots of Puerto Rico who are prisoners of Yankee imperialism and with the just cause of those Latin American people.

Our Communist Party of Cuba believes that the time is opportune to undertake the strongest, broadest and most powerful campaign of continental solidarity to demand the release of all political prisoners, to demand clarification of the whereabouts of thousands of patriots missing in different countries, to denounce by all means the methods of fascist repression and to carry on a redoubled effort in favor of democratic rights, national independence and social progress.

The imperialists have now taken on the hypocritical role of guardians of so-called human rights on this continent and throughout the world. The new Washington administration has even made some verbal criticism of the most hateful repressive regimes in Latin America to which, on the other hand, as an expression of its doubledealing policy, it continues giving military assistance, credits and resources so that they can remain in power.

Well, we cannot be opposed to the U.S. Government's making at least some rhetorical and formal condemnation of the fascist tyrannies. Moreover, this formal contradiction can help in the charges which Latin American popular forces have made systematically against these regimes. But we know that the nature of imperialism has not changed and will not change just because it employs a different language. We also know that in the fulfillment of neocolonialist objectives, the so-called human rights policy is conditioned to this general strategy. An alliance with Iran is sought and the brutal nature of its government is silenced. And, to give its allies an acceptable appearance, it has been announced that following talks with Yankee officials, Pinochet and Stroessner have begun to democratize their regimes.

What we must say very loudly in this proposed campaign is that we, the revolutionary, progressive and truly democratic men of this continent, are the only ones who have the moral standard to demand respect for human rights and to strongly demand that imperialism cease to support the fascist and other unpopular regimes which Latin America is enduring. Those who created Stroessner, Pinochet, Somoza and the executioners of Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia and other Latin American countries, those who have fomented and are directly or indirectly responsible for all the violations of human rights in these nations, those who maintain the illegal blockade of Cuba and drag the infamous stain of 18 years of acts of aggression, crimes, assassination attempts and sabotage against our country, those who have utilized the CIA and subversion against all the force of the progressive movement in Latin America cannot speak of any kind of rights on this continent because they are precisely the negation of all the rights for which our people are struggling. They do not have the slightest moral right to invoke human rights.

Furthermore, the battle for international detente and against the enemies of peace is linked to our struggle for real human rights.

The Latin American policy of imperialism is not, and cannot be, separate from its global policy. To the extent that the detente process imposed by the advances of the Soviet Union, and world socialism gains more and more ground and becomes irreversibly stronger, the policy of encouragement and utilization of fascist tyrannies on this continent will be increasingly untenable. The universal repudiation of the coupist Chilean regime and the latter's obvious failure is the proof we have. Fascism is a desperate play but without any prospects. The most intelligent, keen and able politicians in the capitalist camp understand this.

This does not mean, of course, that the fascist danger has passed. Fascism is still present; it has not yet lost any of its positions. It has strong supporters among the military, political and economic circles of the United States and the threat of its use will persist while imperialism exists and approaches its inexorable end.

What we have said means that we Latin American revolutionaries, while we struggle with all our power against fascist tyrannies, while we work hard to forge the broadest unity of all antiimperialist, antifascist and democratic forces, must also prepare ourselves to opportunely confront the maneuvers aimed at freezing the necessary process of changes with superficial and demagogic formulas designed to lull the masses and leave intact the domination by monopolies and oligarchies. An indication of this which we should not overlook, in spite of its being ridiculous and grotesque, is the recent electoral farce which the tyrant Stroessner, who always is attentive to the wishes of the rulers in Washington and Brasilia, organized just a few days ago.

We know, on the other hand, that Yankee imperialism is in a crisis and that it has nothing to offer the peoples of Latin America. Its great weakness--which dooms to failure even the most acute policies it might try to implement--lies precisely in the fact that it is no longer able to offer even a program such as the illusory and abortive Alliance for Progress of 17 years ago.

Far from opening its markets to Latin American goods, the United States imposes protectionist tariffs of catastrophic effect for underdeveloped producers, such as the one recently imposed on sugar. Instead of being able to offer attractive investments, what the imperialist banks and financial organizations seek is to save the tens of billions of dollars for which Latin American countries are indebted without knowing how or when they are going to be able to pay.

There is no demagogic wordage that can impose itself on the dreadful reality of a continent which today has more than 320 million inhabitants and in a few years, toward the end of this century, will have a population of nearly 620 million human beings who, if current conditions prevail, have no hope for food, jobs, housing, education and public health.

We Cuban Communists firmly believe that the problems of Latin America can be resolved only through a revolution that breaks the dependence on imperialism and leads to socialism. We know from our own experience that even with revolution and socialism, there will have to be struggle and hard work if one wants to solve today's problems and, above all, those of future generations. We are convinced that the future, to put it in Fidel's words, belongs entirely to socialism.

Sixty years have passed since the historic days of the Great October Revolution and half a century since a few score bold communist fighters founded the first Latin American Marxist-Leninist parties. And today, socialism already is a triumphant reality on this continent. Millions of men march in our ranks and the new society is becoming no longer an alternative but the only possibility our peoples have to confront the challenge of the future and reach a decorous place in the world of tomorrow.

The future does not belong to the bourgeoisie, oligarchies and fascists. The future belongs to and is being written by the men who, like Antonio Maidana and his comrades, give their lives for the cause of the masses, their liberty and justice. The road to that future will never be direct or smooth. It is a tough and difficult road, full of obstacles, which now and in the future requires militant men, resolute and capable of giving everything for the emancipation of peoples, like our unforgettable comrade, model of a communist and combatant, Ernesto "Che" Guevara. [prolonged applause]

This path toward the communist future today is passing through the battle against fascist tyrannies, the determined campaign in favor of the freedom of political prisoners and for reporting the revolutionaries who have disappeared, as in the case of Comrade Miguel Angel Soler for whose life we seriously fear. All truly democratic countries should condemn these facts in order to force the fascist regime to preserve all patriots... [Valdes corrects himself] to show all the patriots and thereby preserve their valuable lives.

Our greatest effort should be aimed at the broadest anti-imperialist unity and at the increasingly better organization of the Latin American people and labor movement whose power is becoming extraordinarily greater as a result of the mobilization of peoples and international public opinion and because of the utilization of appropriate methods of struggle under each situation and circumstance. But, above all, the future of changes which Latin America requires demands the most consistent loyalty to the principles of proletarian internationalism. The unity of revolutionaries within each country and solidarity among the revolutionaries of all countries are the indispensable conditions for victory.

What we have come here to express today to the dear Paraguayan comrades who are with us is that all the Cuban people and our Communist Party are, and will always be, with all their hearts, on the side of their people, the Paraguayan Communist Party and all the patriots and antifascists who in that country are enduring imprisonment, concentration camps, and torture or are victims of persecution or are missing and their comrades and friends do not know their whereabouts or whether they are alive or dead. To them goes our lasting solidarity and our unbreakable faith that the triumph of their just cause, which no one or anything can prevent, will crown with success the efforts and sacrifices of the thousands of patriots who paved the way for victory with their blood. Fatherland or death! We shall win! [prolonged applause]

Antonio Maidana Speech

FL212049Y Havana Domestic Radio/TV in Spanish 2315 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Closing speech by Paraguayan Communist Party Chairman Antonio Maidana at ceremony marking the 50th PCP anniversary, held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers Lazaro Pena auditorium in Havana--live]

[Excerpts] Commander of the Revolution and Comrade Ramiro Valdes, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]; comrades of the PCC leadership, comrades on the dais, dear comrades:

It is of special satisfaction and joy for us, Paraguayan Communists, to commemorate the 50th founding anniversary of our party in socialist Cuba [prolonged applause], in the auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers which carries the name of the beloved leader of the Cuban proletariat, Lazaro Pena. [prolonged applause] This ceremony in itself expresses the feeling of solidarity and consistent proletarian internationalism which characterize the Cuban working class, its Communist Party, its First Secretary Comrade Fidel [applause], and all the Cuban people. [applause]

Founded on 19 February 1928, the PCP was born under the direct influence of the triumph of the Great October Socialist Revolution which initiated the time in which we are living, the time of transition from capitalism to socialism. It has been said, and justly so, that no other event in the world's history has had such deep and permanent consequences for mankind as has the Great October Revolution. At that time, it began an impetuous development of the revolutionary movement as well as the formation of communist parties in all countries, including our own.

Throughout its history, even under the most difficult circumstances, the PCP remained faithful to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and has cooperated to strengthen the international communist movement.

During the Chaco war with Bolivia, several leaders of our party who were operating clandestinely in the country--such as (Dulio Duarte), August Canete and labor leader Perfecto Ibarra--were jailed because the Communists were telling the people that the massacre between two fraternal peoples was organized and financed by foreign capital and that it was the result of interimperialist contradictions in the struggle for the Chaco oil, later given to North American monopolies by the fascist tyrants, first Higinio Morinigo and then Stroessner. After that war our party worked on reorganizing labor unions and schools and in the formation of peasant associations for the struggle for land. The party took advantage of legal possibilities for action and organized the first single union of the working class, and when the incumbent government decreed the political and labor [word indistinct], our party organized the first general political strike of the Paraguayan working class on 14 and 15 May 1936 to protest the decree and in defense of democratic and trade union liberties.

The historic and glorious victories of the Soviet people and of their armed forces over fascism during World War II had a direct influence on our country. The fascist military clique which had supported dictator Morinigo was removed on 9 July 1946 and Morinigo was forced to form a government of a limited coalition. In joint actions with other democratic forces, our party organized meetings and demonstrations and gained its right to be legal. But this only lasted 5 months. Alarmed by the ascent of the mobilization of the people and the growing influence of the Communist Party, the dominant class and the North American Embassy in Asuncion organized the fascist coup d'etat of 13 January 1947 and reimposed the terrorist repression against our party and against all the country's democratic sectors.

By reason of various factors, the Morinigo dictatorship, with the support of North American imperialism and the oligarchic governments of Argentian and Brazil, defeated the democratic rebellion.

During the early 1950's, our party and other progressive sectors of the country participated actively in important tasks in defense of world peace and against sending Paraguayan soldiers to Korea. Nearly 100,000 signatures were obtained despite the police repression against the followers of peace.

The fascist Paraguayan military chiefs and their North American advisers then decided to replace the hesitating incumbent government to reinforce the repression of the people and carried out the 4 May 1954 coup d'etat. Stroessner took over power and that started the most selling-out and repressive government which Paraguay has experienced so far in this century.

The year 1959 opened with the triumph of the glorious Cuban revolution which had deep repercussions among our people. In one way or another, from prison we were able to observe the enthusiasm with which the people in our country hailed the immortal feat of the Cuban revolutionary forces led by Fidel. [prolonged applause] This historic triumph, which shook the entire foundation of imperialist domination in America and led to the emergence of the first socialist republic in our continent, is patrimony of and a source of inspiration for all the people who still suffer the yoke of imperialist oppression.

Just like Batista, Stroessner applied the bloodiest repression against the guerrillas and other patriots. All, or almost all, prisoners were horribly assassinated, among them (Avalos Carisimo), Norberto Martinez, Victor Molinas, the Otazo brothers, and so many others, and heroines Julia Solalinde de Basques, Juana Peralta and Antonia Peruchino, who were tortured and harassed for several days and then assassinated on Stroessner's orders.

Aside from other factors, the real cause which facilitated the dictatorship's blows against those guerrilla groups was that there was an agent provocateur operating within the party leadership itself and not less than in the General Secretariat. He was Oscar Creydt, who was later uncovered by the 1967 party conference and expelled from the party, and with that historic event in the life of the party, the intention of its enemies to change our party's traditional internationalist line to drag it into anti-Soviet and anti-communist positions in coexistence with Maoism, which is identified on the international arena with the most reactionary positions, also was defeated.

Keeping in mind that selling-out and repressive policy of the Stroessner dictatorship affects the interests of not only the workers and peasants but also of the nation, and given the concurrence of various opposition sectors in the struggle for immediate demands, limited but very important ones, and in defense of the country's sovereignty, our party proposes the need to form a broad, national and anti-dictatorship front which would create conditions to overthrow the dictatorship and replace it with a government that would undertake a minimum program of democratization and an independent foreign policy of peace and international cooperation based on mutual respect, noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states and reciprocal benefits. [applause]

Throughout these past 50 years, all the democratic and revolutionary struggles of our party have been linked to the history of our party. For that reason, the fascist Stroessner clique, trained by the CIA and FBI, unleashes all its hatred of classes and all its repressive apparatus primarily against our party.

We are certain that international solidarity, headed by the socialist countries--above all, the Soviet Union--will continue demanding clarification of the whereabouts of the missing persons and the release of all the prisoners of imperialism and reaction, in our country as well as in Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and the patriots of Puerto Rico and other countries.

Long live the fraternal and indestructible friendship between the peoples of Cuba and Paraguay! [shouts of 'viva,' applause] Long live the eternal friendship between the Communist Party of Cuba and the Paraguayan Communist Party! [shouts of 'viva,' applause] Long live proletarian internationalism! [shouts of 'viva,' prolonged applause]

JAMAICA

FMC LEADER ESPIN VISITS, ADDRESSES RALLY

Visit to Cuban Physicians

FL171408Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Text] In Jamaica, Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, has paid a visit to the members of the Cuban medical brigade working at the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital. The 19 Cuban professionals gave a luncheon in honor of the women's leader which was attended by Carmen McGregor, Jamaica's minister of state for women's affairs, (Walter Heddit Fin), member of Parliament, and other government officials. The member of the Cuban Council of State and PCC Central Committee praised the Cuban physicians for their internationalist work whose quality, in services rendered to Jamaica's people, has been recognized on numerous occasions by scientific institutions and government agencies.

Espin Addresses Rally

FL181652Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and of the Cuban Council of State and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], has spoken at a public rally held in the city of Savanna-La-Mar, Jamaica. She reaffirmed the close ties of friendship that bind the women of Cuba and Jamaica and emphasized: We have faith in our peoples and we are convinced that together we will march on the bright revolutionary path which provides all the people access to a better and honorable life, full of justic and dignity. The speech by the FMC president was repeatedly interrupted by applause during the militant activity conducted by the women's movement of the ruling Jamaican People's National Party.

CASTILLA MAS BEGINS COOPERATION TALKS

FL211354Y Havana Domestic Servce in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Council of State Vice President Belarmino Castilla Mas has met in Kingston with four Jamaican ministers to study aspects of bilateral cooperation. At the meeting matters dealing with the next mixed commission meeting, which should be held sometime in the middle of the year, were studied. The commission deals with exchange and cooperation in the fields of health, culture, sports, agriculture, construction and others.

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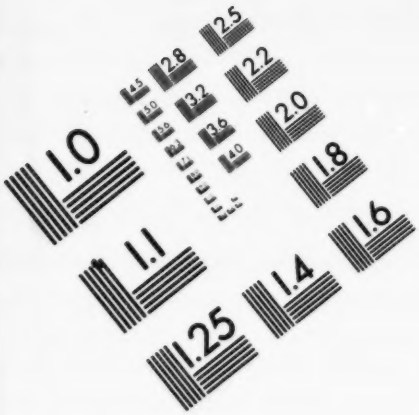

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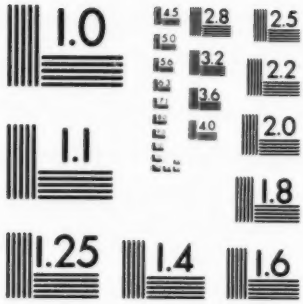

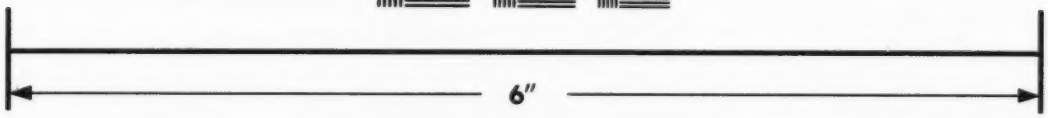

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